

THE
North-China Herald
AND
SUPREME COURT & CONSULAR GAZETTE.

VOL. LIX., No. 1569.

SHANGHAI, AUGUST 27, 1897.

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Miscellaneous Intelligence.

LATEST MAIL DATES.

England July 23
San Francisco .. 27
Hongkong .. Aug. 22
Tientsin .. 23
Hankow Aug. 24
Yokohama .. 21
Nagasaki .. 21
Fochow 22
Shanghai mail advices of 11th June were received in London on the 19th July.

BIRTHS.

At 5, Fochow Road, Shanghai, on the 19th of August, 1897, the wife of Ad. C. SCHOMBURG, of a son.

At the Western Hills, near Peking, on Wednesday, the 4th of August, 1897, Lady MACDONALD, of a daughter.

DEATHS.

At Shanghai, on the 22nd August, 1897, at 3, Kungping Road, DOROTHY, youngest daughter of Jane and John BLECHYNDEN, aged 1 year.

At 2, Mohawk Road, Shanghai, on the 23rd of August, 1897, BARNES DALLAS, in his 65th year.

At 87, Bubbling Well Road, Shanghai, on the 26th of August, 1897, OLE OMMUNDSEN, alias JAMES ROBINSON, Upper Yangtze pilot, aged 66 years.

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT.

Day of Month.	Baromet.		WIND.	Therm.		Hygrometer at 9 A.M.	Thermometer in shade.		Initials.
	Bar.	Therm.		Force.	Direction.	Dry bulb.	Wet bulb.	Max.	Min.
Aug.									
21	29.86	86.0	S.E.	3	85.0	78.0	93.0	79.0	B.
22	29.80	85.0	S.E.	3	85.0	78.0	91.0	79.0	R.C.
23	29.85	85.0	S.E.	3	85.0	78.0	89.0	78.5	„
24	29.82	87.0	S.	2	87.0	78.5	91.0	78.0	„
25	29.83	87.0	W.	2	87.0	81.0	95.0	80.0	B.
26	29.89	89.0	W.	2	89.0	83.5	96.0	83.0	B.
27	29.87	87.0	W.N.W.	2	87.0	81.5	96.5	81.0	C.

EXPLANATION.

Initials:—b. blue sky; c. clouds; f. fog; h. hail; l. lightning; m. misty (hazy); o. overcast (dull); r. rain; s. snow; t. thunder; z. calm. Force from 1 to 12, estimated.

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The North-China Herald.

IMPARTIAL NOT NEUTRAL.

SHANGHAI, FRIDAY, AUGUST 27, 1897.

THE WOOSUNG-SHANGHAI RAILWAY.

THE construction of the railway line from Woosung to Shanghai has already made considerable progress, in accordance with plans that were completed and approved some time ago, an inspection of which has been kindly permitted us. Indeed, the work of construction has so far advanced that the engineers look forward to the line being opened for traffic early next spring. Already the lot appropriated to the terminal station at Woosung has been cleared, and considerable progress has been made in the building of a locomotive house and workshops, the station house and warehouse for goods traffic; the site being close on the river embankment and almost immediately behind the buildings formerly known as the French godowns, and, therefore, within a very short distance of the Harbour Master's station. It will therefore be a very convenient position for receiving railway material of all sorts that has been contracted for in Europe and America. When fully completed the Woosung station will occupy a very extensive area, as the railway scheme embraces the erection at some future period of a grand system of wharves and godowns, both to the north and south of the station site, to which branch lines will run so as to facilitate the transport of cargo landed from vessels. The wharves and godowns to the north are intended to receive cargo discharged from ocean-going steamers, will extend from the Woosung Creek to the forts, and the wharves will be banded out into a sufficient depth of water for deep draught steamers to lie alongside. To reach these wharves the branch line from the Woosung station will circuit round the town of Woosung, so that no native houses will be interfered with, and for this purpose all the requisite land has already been acquired. The wharves and godowns to the south will be situated above the Harbour Master's station, and clear of the Bar channel.

They will be devoted to river and coasting steamers whose lighter draught will enable them to make use of these wharves, while the branch line to them will run direct from the main station. To the north of the station site, and extending as far as the Woosung Creek, will be a line of wharves for the landing of cargo from native craft, and this wharfage will also take in part of the south bank of the Creek. But all this will take place in the distant future, and in the meantime, the Woosung station will be made available for the more immediate traffic of the local line to Shanghai, and for the housing of locomotives, rolling stock, etc.

The line is to be of the English standard gauge of 4ft. 8½ in. and as this is much broader than that of the railway laid down from Shanghai to Woosung some years ago under foreign auspices, it necessitates frequent alterations of the old roadway, as the curves which would answer for the narrow gauge will not always do for the broader gauge. It is, for the present, to be a single line railway, but the road will be prepared and the bridges and culverts arranged so that it can be converted into a double line whenever necessary. After leaving the Woosung station the line closely follows the old roadway until the market town of Kiangwan is reached, and as a station is to be built at this place it has been found necessary to leave the old line so as to secure a straight run into the Kiangwan station, the site of which is considerably on the Shanghai side of the town. Soon after passing this station the line joins the old roadway again and follows it so far as practicable until the point is reached, about a mile and a-half from the Settlement, just before a broad creek is crossed by what is generally known to foreigners as the "black" bridge. From this point the line will take a more easterly direction, and the above creek will be crossed by a bridge much more to the east than the "black" bridge, and then the line will take a broad sweep to the eastward, altogether leaving the course of the old roadway, which from that point up to the Settlement will be quite useless, either for the railway or for foot-passenger traffic, but it appears that this is quite unavoidable as it is absolutely necessary that a straight run into the Shanghai station should be secured. This station will be situated immediately outside the boundary of the Hongkew Settlement and not far westward from the North Houan Road, and will lie nearly due east and west. According to the plans that have already been prepared, this station will be of great extent, as it will eventually not only be used for passenger traffic from Woosung to Soochow and Nanking, but will have to receive the large goods traffic which it is expected will be established between Woosung and Shanghai. Besides this, it is contemplated to build a branch line from the main station to the neighbourhood of

the mills and factories on the river bank, so that the products of these establishments can find convenient carriage into the interior. As the goods traffic is eventually to be kept quite distinct from passenger traffic, it is necessary to make provision for the proper accommodation of both, and for these reasons the Shanghai station for passengers and goods, with all the necessary engine houses, etc., and signal stations for approaches on either side, will occupy a space fully 2,000 yards in length, the land for which has already been acquired and the plans made. But as the development of all this will take some considerable time, it is proposed to adapt only a portion of the station site, in length about 850 yards, to the necessities of traffic from Woosung, in the first instance, one platform being made to do duty for both passengers and goods. When the line is extended to Soochow and Nanking and the goods traffic from Woosung is more fully developed, the Shanghai station will be extended, in accordance with the plans arranged, to meet the enlarged business to be done in goods and passenger traffic, and then the passenger platforms will be entirely distinct from the goods platforms.

As will be seen from what has been stated above, the old roadway has served the purpose for laying the new line for the most part, except for the approach to the Shanghai station, a distance, with the necessary curve, of about a mile. And we are given to understand, on the best authority, that this land has been acquired at reasonable and special rates, in no case exceeding 1½s. 200 per *mow* for the more valuable land close to the Settlement, while for land somewhat distant from the Settlement considerably lower prices have been paid. Where the line closely approaches the Shanghai station site it runs through a native village, which it was impossible to avoid, and this is the only instance in the construction of the line where dwelling-houses have been interfered with. The authorities had some difficulty in settling matters with the owners of the doomed habitations, but matters have now been satisfactorily settled and the railway authorities are in possession of all the land requisite to complete the line.

In a future issue we shall give more particulars about the methods of construction, rolling-stock, and other matters connected with this line.

Summary of News.

THE American mail of the 27th of July arrived here by the *Doric*, and the Canadian mail of the 2nd of August by the *Empress of India*, both on Saturday.

THE English mail of the 23rd of July arrived here on the 24th inst. by the P. & O. Co.'s steamer *Rohilla*.

A MAIL leaves to-morrow morning for Europe by the M.M. Co.'s steamer *Salazie*.

LATEST INTELLIGENCE.

SUPPLIED THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY EXCLUSIVELY TO THE "NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

GOLD DISCOVERIES IN BRITISH NORTH-WEST TERRITORY.

London, 20th August.

It is reported that new rich discoveries of gold have been made at Stewart River and Upper Yukon.

A DENIAL.

The Porte formally and positively denies a malevolent report that there was an agreement between the Porte and the Ameer of Afghanistan to foment a Jihad against the English.

SOMETHING WRONG.

Two of the crew of H.M.S. *Royal Sovereign* have been court martialled for striking the Captain and Commander of the ship. It is reported that there is serious discontent on board, and that the *Royal Sovereign's* cells are filled with defaulters.

A COLLISION.

London, 21st August.

The torpedo-destroyer *Thrasher* and the cruiser *Phaeton* collided in the English Channel during heavy weather. The *Thrasher* was badly damaged.

JUSTICE DONE.

The murderer of Senor Canovas was been executed.

JAPAN'S RIGHTS TO BE RESPECTED.

Secretary of State Sherman's reply to the latest note from Japan is markedly friendly, and repeats the assurance that Japan's rights will be safe-guarded.

THE WAR INDEMNITY.

The Ottoman Bank has offered to advance one million for the first instalment of the indemnity.

AT LAST!

Electric cabs have been started in London.

THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

London, 23rd August.

The attitude of Lord Salisbury in the peace negotiations is greatly resented by the other Powers, who accuse him of a desire to cause the disruption of the European Concert. The deadlock continues, and Germany threatens to withdraw from the Concert of the Powers unless the article in the Treaty relating to the evacuation of Thessaly is adopted as proposed.

IT MIGHT BE EXPECTED!

The Ambassadors have received a letter from the Armenian Committee similar to that of 1896, declaring that they are weary of waiting and are resolved to take action.

THE INDIAN FRONTIER WAR.

London, 24th August.

The Afridis have attacked the forts at Ali Musjid.

Mande yesterday stated officially that it was feared all the tribes had risen.

The Ameer of Afghanistan denies all responsibility for the rising, and blames the fanatic Mollahs.

THE FRENCH PRESIDENT IN RUSSIA.

President Faure met with a splendid reception at Peterhof.

THE DUELLIST RECOVERED.

Prince Henry of Orleans has recovered, and returns to Abyssinia in March.

EXCITEMENT IN THE UNITED STATES.

There is great excitement in the American Markets, wheat reaching a dollar per bushel.

THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

Lord Salisbury has proposed that the Powers enable Greece to raise a loan to pay the war indemnity, the Powers controlling the Greek revenues sufficiently to pay the interest.

THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

London, 25th August.

The Powers are agreeing to the proposal made by Lord Salisbury, and are now enquiring from Greece what revenues she is able to assign to the indemnity loan.

EXCITEMENT IN THE WHEAT MARKET.

The excitement in America has extended to the British Wheat Market, the price at home in some places reaching thirty-seven shillings a quarter.

THE FRENCH PRESIDENT IN RUSSIA.

At a banquet at Peterhof in honour of President Faure, toasts were exchanged affirming that the visit will draw closer the powerful ties uniting the two countries. No mention was made of an alliance.

THE INDIAN FRONTIER WAR.

The Afridis have captured and burned Fort Mande. The native garrison has retired to Ali Musjid, which is surrounded, and their fate is unknown.

THE INDIAN FRONTIER WAR.

London, 26th August.

The Afridis have captured and burned Ali Musjid.

WHAT WILL CHAMBERLAIN SAY?

President Krüger, speaking in the Volksraad, declared that the British suzerainty had ceased to exist, but that the Transvaal was desirous of upholding the Convention entirely, and of preserving friendly relations with Great Britain and the whole world.

THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

Germany has declined to join in approaching the Government at Athens regarding the indemnity until the preliminaries of peace have been signed. France and Russia are disposed to adopt Lord Salisbury's plan. Austria sides with Germany.

(From Tongking Papers.)

Paris, 8th August.

The Emperor and Empress of Germany have arrived at St. Petersburg. At a state dinner the Czar said the visit was a precious guarantee for the maintenance of peace, which was the object of his constant efforts and most fervent desires.

William II. in his reply stated that he and his people would aid in the maintenance of peace and that they would energetically oppose whosoever essayed to disturb or break the peace.

10th August.

The Italian General Sammartino arrived yesterday to present to the President of the Republic the compliments of King Humbert. A cordial interview took place between M. Felix Faure and M. Sammartino.

11th August.

An explosion has taken place at the cartridge factory at Rustchuck, Bulgaria. Forty-five persons were killed and sixty wounded.

M. Felix Faure has concluded his visit to Savoy and is returning to Havre.

11th August.

The assassin of Canovas was arrested immediately. He is a Neapolitan anarchist named José Manto. He said he wished to avenge the anarchists who were tortured at Monjuich. Great indignation prevails throughout Europe.

THE Director of Siewei Observatory reports: Friday, 20th August, 10 a.m.—*State of the atmosphere on the 19th*—The high pressures dwell to the S. of Japan. Important maximum over the coast of Annam. Moderate monsoon along the entire coast. Thunderstormy centre in the evening to the W. of Siewei. *State on the morning of the 20th*—The barometer rises at Shanghai to equal its average. It rises also at Vladivostok. *Probabilities, 5 p.m.* Hot weather. Moderate S.E. to S.W. monsoon over the N. coast; variable breezes in the S.—Saturday, 21st August, 10 a.m.—*State of the atmosphere on the 20th*. Area of high pressures embracing Kiushiu and the Loochoos. Important barometric maximum over the coast of Annam. Fine weather. *State on the morning of the 21st*. Fairly strong S.E. breezes at the mouth of the Yangtze. Barometer stands at its normal height. Fine weather. *Probabilities, 5 p.m.* Hot and rather fine weather. Moderate to fresh S.W. to S.E. monsoon along the entire coast.—Monday, 23rd August, 10 a.m.—*State of the atmosphere on the 22nd*.—Two areas of high pressures; one between Formosa and the Loochoos, the other in the China Sea, near the coast of Annam. Rather strong S.E. breezes at Shanghai. *State on the morning of the 23rd*.—Barometer above the average, with fresh S.E. breezes. *Probabilities, 5 p.m.*—Continuation of fine weather. Moderate to fresh S.W. to S.E. monsoon over the N. coast; variable winds in the S.—Tuesday, 24th August 1897, 10 a.m.—*State of the atmosphere on the 23rd*. High pressures in the China Sea at the Loochoos. Low pressure area over China. Moderate monsoon along the entire coast. Fresh S.E. breezes at Shanghai.—*State on the morning of the 24th*. The barometer falls slowly, but the state of the weather does not vary. *Probabilities, 5 p.m.*—Hot weather liable to lightning or even thunderstorms to night. Moderate S.W. to S.E. monsoon over the N. coast and variable breezes with calms in certain places in the S.—Wednesday, 25th August, 10 a.m.—*State of the atmosphere on the 24th*—Area of low pressures over China, its centre being in the N.W. High pressures to the S. of the China Sea. Light winds along the entire coast.—*State on the morning of the 25th*. The barometer continues to fall slowly. *Probabilities, 5 p.m.*—Hot, but variable weather. Moderate S.W. to S.E. monsoon along the entire coast, with thunderstorms in places.—Thursday, 26th August, 10 a.m.—*State of the atmosphere on the 25th*.

—High barometer in the Pacific and over the Philippines; pressure gives way gradually up to Manchuria where a depression is passing. Very hot weather at Shanghai.—*State on the morning of the 26th*.—Very hot and quiet weather at the estuary of the Yangtze. The barometer rises at Vladivostok. *Probabilities, 5 p.m.*—The Manchurian depression will likely cross the N. of the Sea of Japan to approach Yezo. Oppressive, hot and variable weather. Moderate S.E. to S.W. breezes, with local thunderstorms, at Shanghai and along the entire coast.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK.

(Thermometer in the open air in a shaded situation in the English Settlement.)

		1897.			
		Fabr. Thermometer.		Rainfall	
		Min.	Max.	in inches.	
Aug.	20	80°·5	92°·6	.....	
"	21	79°·0	91°·0	.....	
"	22	78°·5	88°·8	.....	
"	23	78°·4	91°·0	.....	
"	24	78°·8	94°·5	.....	
"	25	81°·0	96°·0	.....	
"	26	82°·3	96°·4	.....	

		1896.			
		Fabr. Thermometer.		Rainfall	
		Min.	Max.	in inches.	
Aug.	27	76°·5	84°·4	.....	
"	21	77°·3	88°·7	0.06	
"	22	77°·8	88°·0	trace	
"	23	78°·4	86°·2	0.18	
"	24	74°·9	87°·0	.....	
"	25	76°·3	87°·7	.....	
"	26	76°·0	88°·0	.....	

We publish to-day the third list of subscribers to the International Institute, showing a total amount subscribed of nearly £15,200,000, which has been obtained by the personal efforts of Mr. Gilbert Reid, who is to be sincerely congratulated on the result of his labours. Having made so good a beginning here, Mr. Reid is sanguine that his scheme will be supported in the United States, for which country he left in the *Gaelic* on the 18th instant.

We much regret to have to record the death of Mr. Barnes Dallas, who succumbed on Monday morning to an attack of diarrhoea that was not considered dangerous until late last Saturday. His well-known figure will be sadly missed from among us. Mr. Barnes Dallas was the second son of William Dallas of Edinburgh, who at one time belonged to the H.E.I. Co., but who started in business in London when the Company ceased to exist, and had a branch establishment at Shanghai. Mr. W. Dallas was also a Director of the Standard Life Assurance Co. In the spring of 1853 young Barnes Dallas came out as tea inspector to his father's firm, Dallas and Coles, and continued with them until the closing of the London house in 1857, when he started business on his own account in Shanghai and met with signal success. He returned home in 1863 with one of the largest fortunes amassed at that date in Shanghai; but unfortunately for him it was all invested in the East, in land, shipping, docks, wharves, etc., and during the depression of 1864, when he returned to Shanghai, and in the following years, he met with severe losses. Mr. Dallas was Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce from 1857 to 1863. He was the chief promoter of the Hongkong Wharf Company and Pootung Dock Company (Tungkadoo). Mr. Dallas joined the Volunteers on his arrival in 1853, and fought in the Battle of Muddy Flat on the 4th of April, 1854; he was, in fact, the sole surviving Volunteer in Shanghai of those who took part in that engagement. Mr. Dallas had been connected with the S.V. Artillery since its first formation, and on his retirement from the command of the Artillery; and other service, in 1885, the Council conferred upon him the rank of

Major. Mr. Dallas was a keen sportsman, and at one time took a prominent part in the Race Club as a racing man, and subsequently as a Steward and Clerk of the Course, and finally as Secretary, having only retired from that office last year. He died in his 65th year, having lived continuously in Shanghai since 1853, with the exception of a year and a-half spent at home in 1863-4. The funeral took place on Tuesday afternoon from his house near the Race Course. As an old Artillery officer, and a veteran of Muddy Flat he was accorded a military ceremonial, the Volunteers turning out in very creditable numbers despite the great heat. The coffin was placed upon a gun carriage, and covered with the Union Jack and the deceased gentleman's sword and uniform, whilst his charger was led behind. The Artillery provided the escort and the Infantry the firing party, and as the body was brought out of the house it was received with the customary present arms. Then, to the strains of Chopin's beautiful "Funeral March" the procession set out for the cemetery. The first part of the Burial Service was read in front of the chapel, after which the coffin was taken to the graveside, the following being the bearers:—Messrs. E. J. Hogg, J. S. Fearon, C. J. Dudgeon, Alex. McLeod, C. Thorne, F. J. Maitland, L. Moore and J. Knowles. There was a very large gathering in the cemetery, testifying to Mr. Dallas' great popularity. At the conclusion of the religious service the Infantry fired three rounds over the grave and were marched back to Loongfei Bridge, where they were dismissed.

We learn that clean bills of health are now issued at Swatow, and that there is every prospect of the same being done at Amoy shortly, as the plague there is decreasing rapidly.

We are given to understand that the Imperial Post Office will, beginning from 23rd, place letter boxes for the use and convenience of the public on board all the River and Coasting steamers, commencing with the former. The public, foreign and Chinese alike, will be thus afforded facilities for posting ordinary letters up to the time of the steamer's departure, provided they are properly stamped. Any covers found in the letter boxes unstamped will, as is customary in all other countries, be charged double the postage on delivery. This is a step in the right direction, and we feel sure the public will appreciate the efforts put forth for their benefit by the Imperial Postal authorities.

A NOTIFICATION has been issued by the Imperial Post Office with regard to the letter boxes placed on board steamers running from here to Hankow, in which letters may be posted up to the time of the steamer's departure. The boxes will be opened at each of the intermediate ports and letters for each place handed to the boarding mail officer. At Hankow and Shanghai the boxes will be cleared and the contents sent to the Imperial Post Office. Correspondence found in these boxes unstamped will be charged double the postage, and if insufficiently stamped double the deficiency, on delivery.

The fire escape that has just been imported was tried for the first time on Friday evening by the Chief Engineer and a few members of the Fire Brigade and was found to work most satisfactorily. The escape, which is of Merryweather's manufacture, was erected against the new building next to the American Consulate, reaching to the extreme height of the scaffolding that surrounds the building, and was worked with the greatest ease. The new fire escape will be in charge of the Mih-ho-long Company and will no doubt prove a great acquisition to the resources of the Fire Brigade.

A Most important action was commenced in the Mixed Court before the magistrate

and the German Consular Assessor, on Saturday afternoon, when the Deutsch-Asiatische Bank, represented by Mr. Nelson of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master, claimed from the Sui Chang-shun Bank and bullion dealers a sum amounting to over Tls. 200,000 for losses on failure to fulfil contracts for the delivery of gold bars. These contracts extend back to July of last year, and the continued fall of exchange has culminated in a loss at this date of Tls. 85 per bar of gold. There are eleven partners in the Sui Chang-shun Bank, all natives of good standing, but the Managing partner having absconded proceedings were instituted against certain of the partners now in Shanghai for recovery of the losses on contracts entered into. When the case was opened it was discovered that two of the defendants had not appeared in person but had sent proxies, to which Mr. Nelson objected, in consequence of which Mr. Weng, the Mixed Court Magistrate, adjourned the case until Thursday the 26th instant, when the two defendants who had sent proxies were ordered to appear in person, bail being taken also for the appearance at that date of the other defendants then in Court.

THE case of the Deutsch-Asiatische Bank against the Sui Chang-shun Bank, for loss entailed by the non-fulfilment of contracts to deliver gold bars, has been settled to the satisfaction of all concerned, so that the proceedings instituted at the Mixed Court have been withdrawn.

We have received the *menu* for tiffin at the Sweetmeat Castle on Monday in which roast pheasant appears as one of the items. This shows that no attention has been paid by the Inspector of Markets to the complaint which Mr. H. T. Wade made through our columns. The Municipal Council ought to look into this.

A TELEGRAM received by the local mandarins announces that Ch'ang Heng, (Manchu) Taotai-designate of Chinkiang, was expected to leave Tientsin on the 23rd instant for this port *en route* for his new post.

ACCORDING to a Soochow telegram received by the local mandarins, Governor Chao of this province was expected to leave Soochow for Nanking on Saturday last where H.E. is to preside over the Triennial Examinations for the M. A. degree in the latter city.

THE Board of Revenue, at the command of the Emperor, has issued a circular note to the various Viceroy and Governors of the maritime and riverine provinces ordering them to levy duty on goods imported from Formosa on the scale settled by the Foreign Treaties.

THE Mint machinery for Hangchow, which passed through this port recently, has been set up in that city, and the work of striking silver "dragon dollars," as the natives of the country now call their Chinese dollars, began on the 29th ultimo.

A DESPATCH from Hankow announces that the floods which overspread parts of Hupeh province last month are now receding, and that in another fortnight the people will be able to return to their villages from which they were driven by the inundations.

A WORKMAN belonging to the Laokung Mow Cotton Spinning Mill at Yangtzepoo somehow got his *queue* caught by the machinery on Thursday morning, with the result, says a native paper, that the man had his hair torn from his head. The injured man was sent immediately to St. Luke's Hospital to be attended to.

The new Custom house at Mitu bridge, Soochow, has been completed and the Commissioner and his staff entered the new premises on the 17th instant. Ch'ien Taotai, acting Customs Taotai, and Liu Taotai, Chief of the Bureau of Foreign Affairs, besides a number of the native

officials called on the Commissioner on that day to offer their congratulations.

It is reported from official sources in Peking that the Emperor will soon appoint Hu, Governor of Peking and Chief Director of the Tientsin-Peking Railway, to be Director-General of all Railways, North of the Yellow River. This, according to the enemies of H.E. Sheng Hsuan-huai, is supposed to be the first step of the Emperor towards taking away the title held by H.E. Sheng in order to give it to Governor Hu.

ACCORDING to a despatch from our native correspondent at Peking, the vicinity of North T'ungchow, twelve miles distant from the capital, had been suffering from the results of a disastrous rain storm which commenced on the 28th ultimo and lasted until the 3rd instant, when the rain ceased, but only for twenty-four hours. Since then until the date of the despatch of his letter—the 13th instant—there had been nearly constant drizzling rains and finally another downpour. In consequence of this the whole of the country on the north, south and east of T'ungchow has been flooded.

HUANG Taotai, the immediate predecessor of the present Liu Taotai, who was compelled to retire in November last on account of the death of his mother, is back in Shanghai once more, having arrived from his retirement in Kiangsi on Saturday. It appears that Huang Taotai was ordered by Viceroy Liu to come to Shanghai to settle certain accounts connected with the money due by the Taotaiship of Shanghai, during his incumbency, for the payment of the interest on the Japanese war indemnity loan, and which the present Taotai refuses to go into himself.

THE Viceroy Liu of Nanking has appointed the expectant Taotais Chih (Manchu) and Lin to be Vice-Directors of the Kiangnan Arsenal under Liu Taotai, who retains the Chief Directorship. The Viceroy has ordered a searching enquiry into the origin of the recent fatal explosion at the Artillery regiment camp, near the Arsenal, and has expressed his dissatisfaction of the report of the affair handed in by the Shanghai Magistrate, who ascribed the accident to the watch-tower being blown down upon the magazine, thus causing an explosion. Some interesting evidence is expected to come out of the enquiry by the Taotai, who has received strict instructions as to how to conduct it. Some ninety odd witnesses are to be examined; but the examination will very likely be carried on *in camera*.

A CHILD, barely eleven years old, was escorted by a number of *yamen* runners into Soochow city on the 20th instant, having come from the district city of Chinkuei, not far from Soochow, for his final trial before the Provincial Judge on the fearful charge of murdering his mother. As a matter of fact the affair was a simple accident. The child was swinging a small bamboo stool about him when he accidentally struck his mother on the left side with it. She died almost immediately, with the result that her son will have to suffer for his so-called "crime" at the hands of the executioner, not merely by simple decapitation, but also by the "slicing process"—the penalty for parricides and matricides, no matter how accomplished, whether accidentally or premeditated, for the Chinese laws do not recognise any difference where life has been taken.

ACCORDING to a Peking native despatch although H.E. Li Hung-chang should, by right of seniority in rank, always excepting the Princes Kung and Ch'ing, hold the chief directorship of affairs at the Tsungli Yamen, it is not so at all, and the old statesman actually is relegated to a back seat by his enemies. Of course, Prince Kung, as President assumes the nominal leadership, but after him, and the one who actually has the direction of the policy of the

Foreign Office, is the Manchu Assistant Grand Secretary Jung Lu, President of the Board of War and Commandant of the Peking Gendamerie. He is, moreover, an immense favourite of the Emperor, who greatly admires his really brilliant talents. Anything that the Assistant Grand Secretary Jung Lu recommends to the Throne is never vetoed by the Emperor. Had it not been for this officer Li Hung-chang's name would have been more potent in the Councils of the Tsungli Yamén. By the death of the late Li Hung-tso, the vacancy in the Grand Council will probably be filled by Jung Lu.

ACCORDING to a Huchow despatch several of the gentry of that silk producing district have petitioned Governor Liao, of the province, to allow them the privilege of re-opening an ancient silver mine there with foreign machinery. From the ancient records the mine in question was a very prolific one, but had to be abandoned, after working it some years, owing to water flooding the mine. This was about 400, or more, years ago. With the purchase of powerful centrifugal pumps from abroad, however, the Huchow gentry inform the Governor that they will be able to develop the mine further, and Governor Liao has, in consequence, sent Mr. Shêng Ting-yi, a nephew of H.E. Shêng, the Director-General of Railways, and a very intelligent and clever young man, who is an expectant district magistrate of Chékiang, to make an inspection of this ancient silver mine. If it fulfills the glowing reports of the natives, the mine in question will be worked with the special view of supplying silver to the Hangchow mint.

It is reported from Peking that an expectant Taotai of Chihli, of the name of Li Kuang-han, has been recommended to the Throne by Viceroy Wang of that province as a bidder for the job of building a branch railway in Kiangsu province, connecting with Tientsin, the main object being to carry the enormous quantities of the annual tribute rice of Kiangsu and Chékiang to Peking by rail. There is also a very large overland and sea trade between these provinces which the new railway expects to quadruple in three years from its inauguration. Li Taotai has given the necessary proofs of substantiality to the Board of Revenue, by showing bonds from thirty-two large native banks in Peking, guaranteeing to furnish Tls. 7,000,000 for the proposed branch railway.—Over sixty villages, outside North T'ungchou and containing some 80,000 inhabitants, have been destroyed by floods and the people drowned or forced to flee. Those belonging to villages nearest the city have been allowed by the local authorities to shelter, as best they can, on the city walls with barely any covering overhead against the pitiless rain. The distress of these people is most pitiable, and public-spirited and philanthropic T'ungchou gentry are actively assisting the authorities in procuring food for these famished people. A large number of the estates of the Peking nobles in the district have also suffered severely.

THE funeral of the late Kuig Ta-jên—or at least the first part of it, the escort of the body from the Ambassadors' Hall to the Anhui Guild-house outside the Great South gate of the native city—took place on Monday. The procession which traversed a good portion of the Settlement was a very long one, taking about twenty minutes to pass a given spot. In its main features—dirty riff-raff carrying titular tablets, and paper figures, shuffling priests, and attendants on ponies of marvellous decrepitude—the cortege was much like any other native funeral. Nevertheless there were some picturesque details, such as soldiers in clean uniforms, bearing ancient weapons which would have delighted the heart of any property master in a Drury Lane "spectacular piece," and others with muzzle-loaders of un-

deniable antiquity. There was also a detachment of men from one of the native gun-boats, whilst native musicians, handsomely embroidered banners and umbrellas, and some priests clothed in brilliant orange, attracted a good deal of attention. The Town Band had also been engaged, and at a suitable distance a native band, "armed" with foreign instruments, executed music which it deemed suitable to the occasion. A number of handsome wreaths which had been sent by foreign friends of the deceased gentleman were carried aloft, suspended from long poles, and seemed to excite something very like amusement amongst the Chinese gathered along the sidewalks. A number of Consular representatives and other foreigners accompanied the procession for some distance.

Our native correspondent at Wenchow sends us the following which may be of interest, as showing the usual manner in which the gentry in this country try to get rid of an unpopular magistrate: The gentry and notables of Lotsing, one of the districts belonging to Wenchow prefecture, have lately been at loggerheads with Mr. Ho, their district magistrate, owing to the latter's increasing the price of the silver tael to 2,590 copper cash when calculating the land taxes, which is over one-eighth more than the current rate in the neighbouring districts of Yungchia and Suian. Nearly seventy of the gentry and land-holders of Lotsing petitioned their magistrate against this exorbitantly increased rate, but all to no purpose. An appeal was then carried to the Wenchow Taotai and prefect. Upon magistrate Ho showing to his superiors that unless he made his newly increased charges he would be unable to pay the usual quota of taxes demanded by the Provincial Treasurer every year, the Taotai and prefect also took their subordinate's part and rejected the gentry's appeal. Frustrated in their attempt to get justice here the gentry addressed their Hanlin fellow-townsmen in Peking, asking them to appeal for them to the Board of Revenue. This Board immediately telegraphed instructions to the Chékiang Governor to have the matter thoroughly enquired into, who, in turn, sent instructions to the Wenchow prefect to reopen the case. On the 4th instant prefect Wang assembled the seventy plaintiffs and the defendant before him and to the surprise of everyone concluded that day's enquiry by placing two of the plaintiffs under confinement. There is now a great to do amongst the Lotsing people who openly swear vengeance against the officials. The case is not yet concluded, but it must be remembered that the market rate of a tael is only about 1,300 cash nowadays, while the officials want 2,500, odd, for their tael.

News has been received by Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., the general agents, that the Indo-China steamer *Wosong* has been towed into Amoy by the *Haeting*, with the loss of her propeller. A new propeller has been sent down by the *Esang* which will bring on the *Wosong's* cargo.

THE Report of the Directors of the Sun Insurance Office, and the published accounts to the 31st December, 1896, which have been forwarded to us by the Agent in Shanghai, Mr. W. T. Phipps, show a very satisfactory state of affairs, and it is therefore little wonder a leading London paper says of it:—"The Directors' report and statement of accounts of the Sun Insurance Company for 1896 is certainly pleasant reading to shareholders and policy-holders alike, for the result of the year's trading cannot be considered anything but most satisfactory. For a fire office to take, after providing for re-insurances, a net £965,684 in premiums, insuring the enormous sum of £388,952,818, is in itself a gigantic business, and when the claims paid

amount to only £504,218 during the same period, we see at once what a fine profit is made by a well-managed fire-office. For a fire-office to have an income from investments of over £72,000 a year, accumulated funds of over £1,800,000, and a premium income of nearly one million a year, is a magnificent result to be attained even by an office established in 1710, or nearly two hundred years ago, and we must heartily congratulate the Directors and officials on the latest result of their labours. Insurers are quick to note the offices in which insurances are advantageous, and we are sure those who have fire risks to place will (if they are wise) take care that the Sun Office stands high on their lists."

THE sixty-five griffins which arrived ex s.s. *El Dorado* on Sunday, the 22nd inst., consigned to the Shanghai Horse Bazaar Co., Ltd., were offered at auction in two batches on Monday and Wednesday last. The most fancied lots realised good prices, the following being the highest figures obtained:—Monday's auction:—Tls. 50, 55, 60, 70, 75, 80, 90, 100, 105, 110, 115, and Tls. 215. Wednesday's auction:—Tls. 50, 60, 70, 75, 80, 90, 95, 105, 170, 190, and Tls. 315. The s.s. *Pechili* left Tientsin *via* Chefoo on Wednesday afternoon, bringing with her another consignment of 52 griffins for the Shanghai Horse Bazaar Co., Ltd.

A COLLISION occurred between two steam launches near Birt's Wharf on Monday afternoon. Both were so badly damaged that they had to be beached to prevent sinking.

THE s.s. *Prinz Heinrich* left Singapore on Friday at 4 p.m. carrying the Imperial German mail, dated Berlin, 26th July.

THE U.S.M. steamer *Coptic* arrived at San Francisco on the 21st inst.

THE R.M.S. *Empress of India* arrived at Hongkong on Tuesday at 7.30 a.m.

THE R.M.S. *Empress of China* left Yokohama for Vancouver on Friday afternoon last.

THE silk which left Shanghai on the 24th ultimo per R.M.S. *Empress of Japan*, arrived in New York on Friday, the 20th inst.

THE M.M. steamer *Yarra*, with the French mails of the 31st of July, left Singapore for Shanghai on Tuesday at 5 p.m.

THE R.M.S. *Empress of Japan* left Vancouver on Tuesday morning, and may be expected to reach Yokohama on Sunday, the 5th proximo.

THE silk which was shipped per *Peru* on the 19th July arrived at New York on the 18th instant.

THE *Foochow Echo* considers that the activity now shown at the Manoi Arsenal is a subject for congratulation, and announces that "on Tuesday last, 13th day of the 7th Chinese moon, the laying of the first keel-plate of a steam tug was effected under the auspices of His Excellency the Tartar General, Imperial Commissioner for the Arsenal. The name of the tug is to be the *Kingyün*. At the same time, the necessary plans are being made for the construction of two torpedo cruisers of 850 tons each, with a speed of 23 knots, and also, rumour says, of a small torpedo boat." Laying the keel of a tug boat is evidently a serious business at Foochow.

We have received Hongkong papers to the 21st instant: Dr. Ayres, late Colonial Surgeon, has published his report for 1896, which is his farewell to official life after twenty-three years' service as Head of the Civil Medical Department:—

The following despatch from the Secretary of State to the Governor is published in the *Gazette*:—

Downing Street, 7th July, 1897.
SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your telegrams noted in the margin congratulating Her Majesty, the Queen, on the completion of the sixtieth anniversary of Her accession to the Throne

from yourself and the Executive and Legislative Councils of Hongkong, from the inhabitants of the Colony, from the Masonic Brotherhood of Hongkong and South China, and from the St. Andrew's Society of Hongkong.

The telegrams have been laid before the Queen, and Her Majesty has been graciously pleased to command me to convey to the senders, through you, Her cordial thanks for their loyal and sympathetic messages of congratulation.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

J. CHAMBERLAIN.

Governor Sir W. Robinson; G.C.M.G., &c., &c., &c.

—From the *China Mail* we learn that the Douglas steamer *Formosa* reports considerable damage by typhoon at Tamsui. On August 9th the German brig *Christina Nielson* (Captain Boyson) was driven out to sea during a typhoon and freshet weather. Whether she succeeded in crossing the bar in safety it was impossible to say as a blinding rainstorm prevailed at the time. On the same date a Japanese steamer (formerly the German steamer *Continental*), anchored in the same place, lost all her anchors and chains and narrowly escaped being driven on the bar. After a hard struggle the officers and crew succeeded in beaching her on the river bank.—The *Daily Press* says that the proposal to establish a new club, to occupy the premises lately vacated by the Hongkong Club, has now been carried into effect. At a meeting held yesterday afternoon the club was definitely formed and the name adopted was "The New Club." It was intimated that a portion of the premises, including the reading room and bar, would be open for the convenience of members in a few days and that the whole building was expected to be ready by the 1st of October.

—The Lilliputian Opera Co. gave their farewell performance on the 16th instant, when *The Princess of Trebizonde* was played, an opera that was not represented in Shanghai. There was an enthusiastic demonstration on the part of the audience before the curtain finally fell.

—The Hongkong police contingent, which represented the local force during the Jubilee celebrations in London, returned to the colony on the 20th inst. by the P. & O. steamer *Japan*. All the men were in the best of health and spoke quite feelingly of the great times they had had in England.—According to the *China Mail* the applications for the three thousand shares in the new Cotton Spinning Company, the list for which closed on the afternoon of the 18th, exceeded that number three and a half times over. This means that capital is still available in Hongkong for sound industrial enterprises. We understand that letters of allotment will be forwarded immediately to the applicants for shares. It may be mentioned that the list was open for two days only, and the result is unprecedented in view of the time allowed for applications, and shows the confidence of the public in the promoters and of their belief in the ultimate success of the enterprise. Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. are to be congratulated on their success as pioneers of this industry in the South of China, as they also were in Shanghai. We believe it is the intention of the General Managers to double the spinning capacity of the mill, and to bring up the total number of spindles to 100,000.

We have received Japan papers with dates from Tokio and Yokohama to the 16th, from Kobe to the 17th, and from Nagasaki to the 19th instant.—The *Japan Herald* says that the celebration of the coming-of-age of the Prince Imperial is to take place next spring. The authorities have decided not to grant pardons to criminals on that occasion, as in their opinion great harm may be done by an indiscriminate exercise of the prerogative of clemency.—A terrible accident took place on the Sumida River, Tokio, on the 11th inst.

when the annual Kawabiraki festival was taking place. Ryogoku bridge was crowded with people looking on at the display of fireworks, when a portion of the railing gave way and about 50 people were precipitated into the water. Boats went to the rescue at once, but many were drowned.—The *Japan Mail* says that Prince Arisugawa returned to Japan by the *Empress of India*, having travelled incognito as Count Sawa. The Prince landed at an early hour and proceeded without delay to Tokio.—Baron Rosen, the new Russian Minister to Tokio, arrived by the *Empress of India*, and after visiting the Russian Consulate proceeded at once to Tokio.—Mr. Stahlgren, lately Danish Consul at Tientsin, who was arrested on board the *Columbia* on a charge of misappropriation of a sum of \$4,000, has been discharged owing to a want of evidence to support the charge.—Mr. John Walsh died at Kobe on the 10th, inst. aged 68 years.

The following telegrams are from Japan papers:—

Tokio, 14th August.

It is rumoured that on his return Marquis Ito will be appointed President of the Privy Council, and will form a Coalition Ministry, which will include Marquis Ito and Counts Okuma and Matsukata.

Seoul, 16th August.

Kim Mei-kei and Li Jun-yok have been appointed Councillors in the Korean Cabinet. Kim Mei-kei belongs to the Russian faction and possesses great influence. His appointment will probably involve several changes in the Government.

Tokio, 16th August.

The Japanese naval manoeuvres are to be held off Hokkaido, and the vessels of the Standing Squadron have been ordered to assemble at the Tsugaru Straits on the 20th instant. The squadrons of other Powers are at present manœuvring along the coast.

Yokkaichi, 16th August.

At 7.15 last night fire broke out in the engine-room of the Yokkaichi Paper Mill. A hard easterly wind was blowing at the time, so that the flames rapidly spread, and the whole of the factory was destroyed. The office and most of the godowns escaped destruction. The seed shed of the Oil Manufacturing Company (Seiyu Kaisha), which is situated close to the Paper Mill, was burnt down. The Mie Cotton Spinning Mill had a narrow escape.

ACCORDING to the *Japan Times*, the cotton flannel manufacturers in Nishijin district, Kioto, are now doing an active trade. Owing to the general enhancement in prices of commodities, the wages of operatives have been increased by over 100 per cent, being 70 sen per diem, and consequently the price of the fabric has been raised by 20 per cent. The increase, however, does not deter the speedy disposal of the goods. On the contrary, the sale of the cotton flannel has been so rapid that the weaving establishments of the place are all out of stock. The orders already received will require fully three months to execute. The value of these orders is approximately estimated at 1,300,000 yen. We are informed that the annual output of cotton flannel from the weaving establishments of Nishijin district is valued at about two million yen, which will fairly supply the increasing home consumption of that fabric. Unless the annual production be increased to 7 or 8 million yen, the long-cherished object of these manufacturers—to export to China—will not be realised.

We were in error the other day, says the *Japan Mail*, in stating that Mr. James Troup is acting Danish Consul in this port, and as such caused the arrest of Mr. Stahlgren. Mr. Gielen is Acting Consul during Mr. Jewette's absence. We may here observe that the affair to which the correction applies takes its place, and by no means an obscure place, among the many curiosities of Consular Jurisdiction

in Japan. By what conceivable right did a Danish Consul issue a warrant for the arrest of a Danish subject on board a British vessel within Japanese territorial waters, but not within the limits of any treaty port? By what conceivable right did a British Consul endorse the warrant? And under what conceivable pretext was a British Consul constable lent for the purpose of executing the warrant? The incident is so strange that we can scarcely credit the correctness of the facts as hitherto published.

Official statistics show, says the *Japan Herald*, the number of boats engaged in fishing in Korean waters to be 3,389, and the number of fishermen 19,138, while the amount of the catch for the first half of the year is valued at 1,899,490 yen. The greatest number of fishermen are from Hiroshima, Kagawa, Okayama, Nagasaki, Yamaguchi, Oita and Ehime. The *Herald* makes no comment on the great but unacknowledged benefit that Japan derives from fishing in waters which belong to "independent" Corea.

The import of kerosene last year, the *Mainichi* says, amounted to 6,331,036 yen in value. Oil, however, is produced in various parts of this country, and in some instances the quality is supposed to be hardly inferior to that of American oil; in others it surpasses Russian petroleum. Yet the import increases year by year for no other reason than that the petroleum industry in Japan is carried on with an insignificant amount of capital and by most imperfect processes. There are at present about two hundred companies engaged in this branch of industry, but their organisation being meagre, only sixty sets of machinery are now employed by them. The kerosene of Sakata in Yechigo is renowned for its superiority to the American production, while that of Sagara in Enshu is scarcely inferior to the oil imported from Russia. The application of a proper amount of capital, under the management of competent engineers, would not, it is alleged, fail to produce considerable profits, and success in this enterprise would virtually amount to an extraordinary addition to the resources of the State.—*Japan Mail*.

In a leader under the heading of *Inventions and Patents*, the *Chugai Shogyo* remarks that since 1885, when our Patent Law went into effect, there have been very few inventions that are "worth being proclaimed as Japanese inventions." In the United States, says the *Chugai*, the number of applications for patents in the various fields of mining, agriculture, civil and mechanical engineering, iron trade, ship-building, electricity, printing, and so forth, amounts to 35,000 a year. Patents granted on these applications amount to 25,000 a year. In Germany, England, and France the numbers of patents granted are not so numerous as in the United States, owing chiefly to the difference in the law of patents between the former countries and the latter one, and yet the fact that inventions are quite numerous in those countries may be learnt from their Reports on Inventions. The figures of our inventions and patents for the last few years run as follows:—

Year.	Patents applied for	Patents granted
1890.....	1,180.....	240
1891.....	1,288.....	367
1892.....	1,344.....	309
1893.....	1,337.....	318
1894.....	1,250.....	324
1895.....	1,122.....	223

The *Chugai* regrets that even these small figures do not, in any sense, represent inventions worthy of the name.—*Japan Times*.

The *Toyo Keizai Shimpō* (the *Eastern Economist*) has an editorial on the recent fall of silver in its last issue, the gist of which the *Japan Times* reproduces.—The recent fall of silver was not expected at the time when the gold system was decided on. It is, therefore, attracting much

journalistic attention, and we find not a small number of writers who appear to fear that it may prove so injurious to the adoption of the gold standard as to make it altogether impracticable. None holding enlightened ideas share such a view. The fall of the white metal can have on the gold currency no other effects than these:—First, causing a certain increased amount of silver to come forward to be exchanged, and secondly, causing thereby some loss to the Treasury. Touching the first point the *Keizai Shimpō* believes that, at all events, the amount of silver the authorities will have to exchange upon the realisation of the gold system, will not exceed 100 million yen, the probable reimportation of yen from the Straits Settlements, India, Hongkong, and other places included. Proceeding to speak of the loss the Treasury will have to face, our contemporary says that at the present rate of exchange, on 100 million yen exchanged there will be a loss of 13 million yen, which, however, will be certain to be counteracted by a gain to the Treasury on the minting of subsidiary coins, likely to amount to no less than seven million yen, and will ultimately leave only five million yen of loss at the most. Actually, concludes the *Eastern Economist*, the disadvantage will be far short of that, it being quite probable that so much silver as 100 million yen will not be forthcoming, and therefore the low price of silver will not prove detrimental to the adoption of the new standard to any such extent as is feared by some writers.

"PRINTERS' errors" are the despair of all newspaper people, says the *Japan Mail*, but more particularly of the little band of English journalists who are "marking time and writing history" in the Treaty ports of the Far East. To them falls an additional burden of care and worry, for to the outside, the jumble a native compositor can make of the plainest copy is inconceivable. Fortunately, the Far Eastern comp does not take upon himself the task of punctuating the copy given him to set-up. In that respect he is most unlike his English brother. Still faulty "stopping" often brings expressions of wrath to the lips of many a "writer for the Press" in the Far East. When the accident happens to some other journalist than yourself, it is really very funny to observe the curious effect a misplaced comma has upon the sense of a paragraph or advertisement: it's not fun for the other fellow though. A London periodical recently offered a prize for the best collection of such unintentionally amusing advertisements. Here is part of one list:—

"Annual sale now going on. Don't go elsewhere to be cheated—come in here."

"Wanted, a room for two gentlemen about thirty feet long and 320 feet broad."

"A lady wants to sell her piano, as she is going abroad in a strong iron frame."

"Lost, a collie dog by a man on Saturday answering to Jim with a brass collar around his neck and muzzled."

"Wanted by a respectable girl, her passage to New York, willing to take care of children and a good tailor."

"M. Brown, furrier, begs to announce that he will make up gowns, capes, etc., for ladies out of their own skins."

"A boy wanted who can open oysters with a reference."

"Bulldog for sale, will eat anything, very fond of children."

"Wanted, an organist and a boy to blow the same."

If this can be done at home, what can outlander papers not produce?

INFORMATION has been received at the Board of Trade from the Foreign Office to the effect that the Chinese Government, while applying the new international regulations for preventing collisions at sea to war and merchant vessels of a foreign type, request that British vessels visiting Chinese waters may be warned that when they encounter sailing and fishing craft of native type (to which the regulations do not apply)

they should not adhere strictly to the international rules, but should act as circumstances may direct for the avoidance of collisions.—*L. and C. Express*.

THE return of *Lloyd's Registry of Shipping* for the quarter ended 30th of June last, show that there were 435 vessels of 871,661 tons, gross, under construction in the United Kingdom at the close of the quarter, not including war ships, an excess of 43,000 tons over the returns of the previous quarter. Of the above 381 vessels of 725,041 tons are under the supervision of the surveyors of *Lloyd's Register* for classification by *Lloyds*, and 32 vessels of 70,441 tons are being built for classification abroad. Amongst the vessels being built for abroad are 12 for Japan of 54,365 tons, and 1 for China of 1,500 tons. In addition to the above there are 79 war ships under construction at private yards, of which 46 are for the British navy and 33 for foreign countries. Yet all this important work will come to a standstill if the engineering strike goes on, and future work will naturally be diverted from British yards. The outlook is indeed very serious.

VERY wisely, according to *Transport*, the members of the London Chamber of Commerce have approached the shipowners with a view to settling forms of bills of lading which will be satisfactory to both parties. This is a far more reasonable and effective way of determining such questions than by coercing either the merchants or the shipowners, as it opens the way to satisfactory compromises. The conference between the merchants and shipowners have shown that there are two material points at issue, the latter strenuously opposing the proposal of the Chamber of Commerce to prepare a standard form of bill of lading applicable to all trades and to enforce upon the shipowner most, if not all, the liabilities of common carriers. The shipowners, whilst declining to fall in with the suggestions, agreed, through the Documentary Committee of the Chamber of Shipping, to co-operate with the Chamber of Commerce in removing any abuses in particular trades, in regard to which the Chamber was duly empowered by the trade to represent them. The shipowners go further, and say that to prevent misdescription, bills of lading should be signed and issued for goods actually on board the ship mentioned in such bill of lading. The matter is to be further discussed.

THE Engineers' strike is a very serious blow to the British shipbuilding trade, but it would appear from the following extract from the *Engineering and Mining Journal* that the United States is not altogether free from similar troubles. "The iron trade, as well as the coal trade, is disturbed by the prospect of labour troubles. There have been, as our readers know, a great many reductions of wages, most of which have been submitted to as unavoidable in the present condition of trade. There are now many signs of restiveness, however, and it will not take very much to precipitate a series of strikes which may have disastrous consequences. The uneasy feeling which prevails as to the future has had a notable effect, and has helped to produce some hesitation in accepting contracts for export and other future deliveries."

THERE is an account due by A to B. A cheque for the amount is drawn and posted by A, but never reaches B, having been stolen in transit. Is the posting of the cheque to be regarded as equivalent to the payment of the amount due, and consequently as exonerating the debtor? Much to the surprise of business men, Mr. Justice Grantham, in an action tried before him at Leeds in March last, answered this question in the affirmative. It was admitted that over a long course of years the accounts due by A to B had been settled by cheques transmitted through the Post-

office. And the law is, that if a creditor expressly asks his debtor to remit by cheque the posting of the cheque is equivalent to a discharge of the debt. In the case in question there had been no such express request, but it was argued, and concurred in by Mr. Justice Grantham, that a request was to be implied from the ordinary course of business between the parties. That was a novel doctrine, and one in which business people were little disposed to acquiesce. It is satisfactory, therefore, to find that it has now been repudiated by the Court of Appeal. In giving judgment, the Master of the Rolls said: "Was there any course of business which showed that putting the cheque in the post was to be taken as a delivery of the cheque to the plaintiff? The only facts were that the defendants always sent cheques by post, and that when the plaintiff received them, sent back the receipt duly signed. It would be most monstrous to infer from those circumstances a request to send a cheque by post and that the plaintiff would consider that he had received it as soon as it was posted. He was unable to agree with the judgment of Mr. Justice Grantham." And in this decision the Lords Justices all concurred.—*The Economist*.

SLOWLY but surely that pioneer of commerce and civilisation, the Uganda Railway, is advancing into the very centre of the Dark Continent. While down South the whole of the long line from Cape Town to Bulawayo will shortly be open to traffic, and while on the West Coast surveys are being made far into the British hinterland, the connecting link between Mombasa on the eastern littoral and the great lakes is being pressed forward as quickly as circumstances allow. Unfortunately, the country is far less easy than was believed, while malaria takes large toll of human life. All this, however, had to be reckoned with, and it may be hoped that both conditions will improve now that the roughest and most unhealthy strip of territory lies behind. The official report states that the rails are already laid for the first 60 miles, while embankments and cuttings are completed for five miles further. This may appear but slow progress, in view of the fact that construction has been going on for considerably more than a year. If, however, due allowance be made for the novel character of the undertaking, the rugged nature of the country, the necessity of importing labour from India, and the ravages of disease, credit will be given to the Chief Engineer and his staff for having accomplished even so much. The work has been done very cheaply, too; excluding the cost of plant and materials imported from England, the total outlay up to the 31st of March was only about £180,000. The chief source of expenditure has been the clearing away of the dense scrub; at some places, this was so thick that it took a whole day to clear a quarter of a mile. It is believed, however, that this and other obstacles to construction will be found to diminish farther on, while the climate is certain to improve.—*The Globe*.

THE following statistics of shipbuilding in the United States are taken from the *New York Maritime Register*:—As shown by the Records of the United States Bureau of Navigation, for the fiscal year ended 30th June, 1897, there were built in the United States, and officially numbered 729 vessels of 177,643 tons, gross compared with 709 vessels of 203,977 tons of the previous year. The decrease is almost wholly in wooden tonnage, which, for 1897, amounts to 64,940 tons, compared with 94,715 tons for 1896. Of the total construction 347 vessels of 113,065 tons were steam vessels, compared with 322 of 134,947 tons for the previous year. Steel steamers built on the Great Lakes numbered 15 of 55,866 tons compared with 24 of 55,020 tons for the previous year.

Miscellaneous Articles.

DARWINISM AND THE CHINESE.

24th Aug.

PEOPLE now living can remember the hatred, malice, and uncharitableness which was the portion of the greatest evolutionist the world ever saw when he first hinted at man's connection with the other primates. "The image of God" was degraded to the level of the beasts of the field, so the churches told us; and for this desecration no punishment, no disgrace could be too severe. How many of those who howled and hooted at the name of Darwin have come to sit at his feet we know not, but we are quite certain that few would care to repeat in old age the opinions of their misguided youth. For many years they exultingly demanded the production of the "missing link." Well, in 1895 Dubois found a missing link—an erect man-ape—amongst the tertiary beds in Java. He submitted his discovery to the learned bodies of Europe, who "sat" upon it. Many believed, but some doubted. It is more than lucky that these doubting Thomases exist, and that science welcomes their scepticism. But for them every plausible theory would find ready adherents who must of necessity waste time and energy in defending untenable positions which a little "honest doubt" would have prevented them from occupying. Some doubted, therefore, but the consensus of the highest opinion is that the missing link—a missing link would be more correct—has been found at last; viz., the skull, and part of the skeleton of an animal which was never man nor ape, but a modification of them both.

We do not intend to enter upon an abstruse anthropological study of the connection between Darwinism and the Chinese, but merely wish to call attention to a few points tending to strengthen the evolutionist theory, points which can be verified in our daily walks by observation of the native life around us. Man is never nearer to the beasts than when he is angry, and probably no civilised man ever exhibits the animal nature in him more clearly under those circumstances than a Chinaman who is thoroughly infuriated. His Simian ancestry have returned for the time being—it is a true case of transmigration—and transformed him into a raging beast, whose eye glares, whose mouth foams with almost as poisonous a secretion as that of a mad dog, whose snarling lip discloses the old time weapons, and whose face is redder than the glow of health ever made it. Watch him half bend himself downwards and then spring up with a jerk, his gesticulating arms and twitching fingers hardly under control: he is the very picture of an enraged anthropoid ape. Then comes a period of collapse, when a little child might lead him.

But he is not always—indeed not often considering the worries that

torment him—in this angry state. In repose he has his resemblances to the ancestral type as we all have. His nose in particular shows its origin. *Simus*, the Latin root from which *simian* is derived, literally means flat or snub-nosed. Taken profile many a native face tells its own tale in this respect. Amongst European races it is only in babies that this peculiarity is very noticeable, for the nose rapidly changes during the period of growth, and indeed during adult life as well. Judging from the natives of this district (it is hazardous to dogmatise about the Chinaman when he varies so much) their ears are particularly well formed, and the tell-tale angle at the upper extremity of the outer ear is perhaps less frequently seen than in some European races. In the appearance of the eyes he varies much from the Aryan type. But as this variation is much more muscular than osseous its presence may be accounted for in other ways. It is only necessary to see a party of hatless Chinese on a hot day in the face of a driving cloud of dust to have a suggestion as to the manner in which some of the eye peculiarity has been acquired.

Many Chinese have retained vestigial control of the feet which Europeans have lost. The natural space between the great toe and the next is more marked, and the muscular power of the toes more under control. Not only can a Chinese boatman hold his oar by the toe, but he can bring enough lateral pressure to bear to be able to give a hard pinch; and his baby, if the chance were given, could play five finger exercises with his toes. Similarly the habit of walking on the outside of the foot, so noticeable in the anthropoid apes and traceable in all races of men, is very well marked in the Chinese. Observation of barefooted coolies on a damp road will prove plainly enough that the inner part of the sole never touches the ground at all. Passing from bodily characteristics to others, we may note the comparative insensibility to pain with which our native residents are blessed. Local doctors tell of frequent operations in which their native patients simply refuse chloroform, and bear without flinching what an ordinary European would faint under. This may be a blessing, but it seems to point to a lower condition of evolution than that of the Western man. Mentally, the Chinaman is at present unclassified. Data in some profusion abound, but reports are conflicting. Some claim for him powers equal to those of the best from Europe, others say that there is the promise of these powers, and that in early life they are present, but like those of the too precocious boy they vanish in later years. Wallace is of opinion that we must look elsewhere than to natural selection for such developments as those of mathematics, music, and painting.

Little can be said for the Chinaman's taste in the second of these, for musically he is scarcely above the savage. There are Chinese instruments delicate in tone, and capable of very charming melody, but these are not the kind that appeal to the average native when he really wants to enjoy himself, as at the New Year. Then he shuts himself up in a dark room with tom-toms, gongs, and pokers, varying their din with an occasional ear-splitting blast on a tin trumpet, and with all this he seems to be supremely happy. Likewise in colour: with the most delicate hues at his disposal he appears to delight in parading in a costume that might have come from a stained glass window and nowhere else.

Space does not permit or we might enlarge upon the opportunities the hot weather affords for the study of this subject along the native roads and alleys. We are babies by the score, and as they are most *in puris naturalibus*, the scientific observer has an endless series of subjects for the exercise of his powers of discovery. Dr. Louis Robinson's observations of the relatively enormous arm power and firmness of grasp of new born babies can be put to the test and abundantly verified. The simian character of the soles of these little mites is so plain that he who runs may read. Curiously enough, too, in the ways unfrequented by foreigners, the stranger in the unfamiliar dress is viewed with all the fear natural to infancy in a more primitive state. In fact atavistic signs obtrude themselves at every step. That the Chinese should, perhaps more than the European, prove his relationship to the lower animals by the facility with which he becomes infected with diseases from which they suffer, is partly to be accounted for by the contempt in which he holds personal and household cleanliness. But we must not forget that the Goddess Hygieia to whom we are now bowing so ostentatiously is a re-discovery of very recent date, and that the order of the bath which all her devotees are supposed to possess is even now held by only a small fraction of the people of Europe. Here, however, we have one more, and a final instance of the link between the present and past of the Chinese. When he does bathe, he sometimes learns to swim, and so far as we have noticed, until influence or teaching *ab extra* has been brought to bear, his swimming is of that kind common to the lower creation, and is known to foreigners as "dog-fashion."

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to cure, in either sex, all acquired or constitutional Discharges from the Urinary Organs, Gravel, and Pains in the back. Free from Mercury. Established upwards of 30 years. In boxes 4s. 6d. each, of all Chemists and Patent Medicine Vendors throughout the World. Proprietors, The Lincoln and Midland Counties Drug Company, Lincoln, England.

(2) alt ff. 555

ECLIPSES.

26th Aug.

ACCORDING to theory the Board of Ceremonies must announce to the Emperor each eclipse before it occurs, whether of the sun or moon; the people are also notified in order that they may beat gongs, let off fireworks, fire cannon and blow trumpets. In the magistrate's offices drums are beaten, and large bells struck. In the capital the civil and military officers wear plain robes, and each in his own office takes measures to save the sun or moon, as the case may be, from the eclipse. The heavenly dog is supposed to be devouring the sun or moon, and the reason is found in the deficiencies in wisdom and morality of the reigning prince. The heavenly dog is represented on the walls of the magisterial office in a very grotesque shape neither like a lion nor a dog, but something of the one and of the other, according to the rude untrained fancy of the artist. The animal he paints has a lump of silver under his foot, and beside him is a book of military precepts and a sword. There may also be an ape and a few wasps. A red sun is represented in the sky, and this the greedy animal attempts to devour. If he devours it, the alarming sound of bells and gongs will induce him to vomit it out again to its place in the sky. The moral of this popular superstition is that the emperor's servants, military or civil, must not be covetous; they must not grasp at riches and honour from selfish love of aggrandisement; they must not oppress the people nor must they grow rich themselves by bribes and unfair influence. The object of the rough painting is to teach this lesson; but the common people take the singular looking beast to be the heavenly dog, and who is there to tell them that they are in the wrong? That many officials are unscrupulous and grasping they know too well, and that the tax gatherers and servants of the magistrates are usually without fixed salaries and must live by perquisites and presents they also know. All those who are in office have a bad repute, and the honest men among them suffer in public estimation because they belong to a greedy flock of harpies. The painting on the *yamen* wall is a warning to all officers against grasping greed and has nothing to do with eclipses, nor is it the heavenly dog proper, which Indian superstition gave over to the Chinese with a mass of other Buddhist fictions. The red sun is the sovereign as in the old classical lines, *Tien wu erh jeh, Min wu erh chu* 天無二日民無二主 "Heaven has not two suns, nor can the people have two sovereigns." These lines are known by the people from their boyhood. They draw the swift conclusion that the sun is the symbol of the highest advancement, just as the lion is the emblem of dignity and power. The strength of this animal, his tawny flowing mane, his roar and

fierceness made him very early the symbol of kingly rank, and he came from Persia to the Chinese by the agency of the Buddhists. With all this dignity the lion is a voracious beast, and under the name of *tan*, "greedy," he is made to serve the purpose of picturing out the covetous official who is always anxious to devour the sun—as the Chinese say.

There is nothing of this in the Chinese classics. The lion is not a Chinese animal and was not known in China till the Buddhists arrived; but an eclipse was observed with the beating of drums at the altar of the god of the land, and the princes of the subordinate states presented offerings of silk at the same altar. Each of them had drums beaten in their own courts and the blind musicians were called to beat the drums; the recorder read an address, and the officers doffed their embroidered robes and wore plain gowns of white. Great care was taken to do this at the eclipse of the sun in the first month, as being more important than that of the moon and of the sun during other months. The author of the *Tsochuan*, a disciple of Confucius, tells us this. He also quotes a passage from the Book of History in the Hsia period, saying that at an eclipse in the constellation *Fang*, Scorpio, the blind musicians beat drums, the inferior officers galloped from one station to another, an account of the excitement connected with the observation of the eclipse, while the common people moved restlessly about. Now that we know more of the Babylonian religion than formerly, we learn that the dog was as greatly disliked in Babylon as he was by the Semite race, and was classed among the powers of evil. He was regarded as a sort of demon of a cruel disposition. The four hounds of the god Merodach were called the seizer, the capturer, the devourer and the pursuer. So in modern times the dog is a petted companion of men and women, valued for his good qualities and for his utility in guarding the home, and is an admired animal in many circles, while to the fugitive slave, in days gone by, the bloodhound was a hateful, cruel and irresistible enemy, the object of extreme dread. The Chinese idea of the heavenly dog, as a devourer of the eclipsed sun, may then be explained as the creation of polytheistic mythology in Babylonian times, and this conception was brought to China by Buddhists soon after the Christian era. But as to the beating of drums, it is a practice of very great antiquity in China, and cannot be placed at a lower date than B.C. 1,800. It is practised with the idea that divine beings are asleep and must be awakened by noise. This usage then was also evidently derived by China from Western Asia about 3,600 or 4,000 years ago.

THE HEALTH OFFICER AND THE COUNCIL.

26th Aug.

So far as has been possible since the unfortunate dispute between Dr. J. Taylor Grant and the Municipal Council became public property, we have willingly published any material likely to assist the public in forming a judgment—as they are entitled to do—upon a case which so closely concerns the credit of a profession always regarded with the highest honour, as well the policy of the Municipal Council. But at the same time it could not but be felt that there were many points upon which further light was needed, and without which it would be hazardous to venture to dogmatise. We may therefore express satisfaction at the advertisement which appears in another part of to-day's impression convening a Ratepayers' Meeting on the 7th of September to go into the whole matter fully. The agenda appears to cover the ground entirely, and the good sense of the community will doubtless enable a judicial and impartial decision to be arrived at. Meanwhile the assertion of hastily formed opinions, one way or the other, is to be deprecated, and for our part we shall steadily discountenance such a course.

CONSULAR REPORT ON THE TRADE OF WUHU FOR 1896.

26th Aug.

In his report on the trade of Wuhu for 1896, Mr. M. F. A. Fraser remarks that if the volume of trade means prosperity the figures that he has to deal with show that 1896 was the best commercial year the port has known, since it was opened in 1877 to international trade, and that the total value of that trade, which amounted to something over 7,000,000 Mexican dollars in 1885, has more than doubled by 1896; both imports and exports showing a steady increase. In Imports the principal increase has been in cotton and woollen piece-goods and yarn. In 1890 the import of the last named article only amounted to 486 piculs, but in 1896 the import of Indian yarn amounted to 10,434 piculs, nearly the whole of which was sent under transit pass into the interior. The import of kerosene oil continued steadily on the increase, which was more marked in the case of Russian oil, though the American oil still keeps ahead.

There was a falling off in the import of opium by 55,774 lbs., there having been a considerable cessation in the demand for the foreign drug; as the import of native opium had increased by 17,042 lbs., and Mr. Fraser says that "the crops of native-grown in this province, Anhui (mainly in the north of it), have not been plentiful during the last two years, and the price here for 100 ounces has risen from 14 or 15 taels to 16 taels, the Szechuan drug being about 20 per cent more expensive,

The import from Kiangsu has ceased, as it does not fetch remunerative prices. Most smokers are contented with the native opium, as they get it for about half the price of the foreign—H. Tl. cents 22½ as against H. Tl. cents 75 an ounce. It has been estimated that more than H. Tls. 1,500,000 worth of opium a year is smoked in Wuhu and suburbs alone, by a population of 100,000 people. The cultivation in the province is spreading."

In Exports the principal gain was rice, the export having been made direct from Wuhu instead of from Chinkiang as formerly, no less than 110 cargoes having left the port during the year, chiefly for Canton. The reason for this export from one rice growing district in China to that of another very extensive rice producing district, is due, says Mr. Fraser, to the poverty of the people in the Southern province, which compels them to consume an inferior—and, of course, cheaper—grain than their own country produces. "The rice of Anhui looks very yellow and coarse when placed beside the white rice of Canton; the grains are shorter and thicker; but it is no doubt liked by those whose staple diet is shredded and dried sweet potatoes, and who only get rice occasionally as a treat. Owing to the short crop, in Anhui last year—only half a crop—the prices ranged from Tls. 2.20 to Tls. 2.30 per picul, while a few years ago exporters could buy it here for Tl. 1.90. Owing to this dearth here, and the low price obtainable for it at Canton and Swatow, the freight on it has been reduced considerably, as exporters can only afford now to pay the steamers about 10 tael cents a picul for freight to those ports, the half of what they were paying a few years ago." Notwithstanding the large trade done in the export of rice the Canton shippers made heavy losses in the business, largely by being unable to recover advances made for grain which was not delivered according to contract. There was a large business done in the export of cotton to meet the demand of the recently established Cotton Mills at Shanghai and elsewhere, and though the crop for 1896 was below the average the accumulation of stocks from previous years enabled orders to be fulfilled, the export being exceptionally large. The cotton grown in the Wuhu district is paid for by the old Carolus dollar, which appears to find more favour with the natives than the Mexican, being worth one-third more than the latter.

Serious attempts are being made to introduce sericulture in the neighbourhood, and Mr. Fraser says that the Taotai, Mr. Yuen, whose native place is the province of Chékiang, "is devoting some of his private funds to the introduction of the cultivation of mulberry trees, as he thinks that the southern part of Anhui, the province in which Wuhu is, could rear more silk-worms than it does. An emissary has been sent southwards to Chékiang to

get 50,000 or 60,000 saplings which will be planted here, and in various places in the two departments of this province (Ningkuo and Taiping) which lie between Chékiang and Wuhu. Men began on 10th February, 1897, digging and manuring the gardens here at Wuhu for planting the trees as soon as they should arrive. They are set 5 feet apart, and there will be room for 2,000 or 3,000 of them in the 2 acres of land set apart for the purpose."

There is an albumen factory established at Wuhu by a German firm, just as in the case at Chinkiang, and no doubt the exports of 1897 will be increased by the results of this industry. For some time past there has been a large trade done in the export of duck and goose feathers, which, Mr. Fraser says, are going to form the stuffing of soft feather beds "made in Germany."

Another industry under purely Chinese auspices has been started which bids fair to be successful, that of a flour mill, this being one of the results of the abrogation of the former regulation prohibiting the importation of industrial machinery. As flour, ground by foreign machinery is becoming very popular in many parts of the empire, Mr. Chang, "a retired native of Anhui, who is a capitalist, having long held lucrative posts in the province," says Mr. Fraser, "has bethought himself that Wuhu, owing to its advantageous position on the Yangtze, must become a great trading centre, and he has started a purely native company with a capital of, it is said, about £80,000 to build and run a large steam flour-mill here. At first, with the machinery used, it is expected to turn out only 200 piculs of flour a month, but no doubt if business goes well this will be increased. As the corn grown in the neighbourhood of Wuhu is too small-grained and loose, the grain will be brought from a district in the next province, nearer to Nanking than to Wuhu, where it is very large and firm. The resulting flour will be packed in bags similar in all respects to those now imported. As Tientsin is the only port where there is a native enterprise of the kind great expectations are formed of the profits from the product of the Wuhu mill, if it can be sold cheap enough, as a ready sale is expected for it in no fewer than six provinces—Kiangsi, Hupei, Hunan, and Szechuan, up river, and Chékiang and Kiangsu, down river. Nearly two acres of land have been bought by the company, on which will be erected the factory, quarters for manager, clerks, and workmen, and warehouses, by a native architect."

It is in Anhui that the Chinese writing ink, known to foreigners as Indian ink, is made, and considerable quantities are sent to foreign countries, though the superior kinds are reserved for use in China. There are over a dozen different grades of quality, which

vary in price from 50 cents to \$50 a pound. Mr. Fraser concludes his report with a return of shipping at Wuhu, which shows that of 1,452 vessels entered, 969 were British, 32 German and 451 Chinese, and of the 1,452 cleared 969 were British; 31 German, and 452 Chinese.

TWO JUBILEE DAYS.

26th Aug.

Through her million-peopled city
Passed our Empress-Queen in view,
While from far-off lands, her lieges
Swelled her stately retinue.

Not as in old Roman story
Captives glutting tyrant's pride:
Happy these in freedom's blessings,
Under England's Crown enjoyed.

For 'tis true of earthly empire
As of old on Sinai:
"Show me Lord," prayed one, "Thy
Glory!"
"Yea, My Goodness shall pass by."

Teaching us that blessing others,
With the talents God has given,
Is the only earthly glory
Worthy to be named in Heaven.

Greet we then to-day with honour
One whose life-long ministry
For the welfare of this people,
Has attained its Jubilee.

Fifty years of many changes,
Glad ingathering, painful loss;
Changeless only his devotion
To the preaching of the Cross.

Not resounding acclamation
Cheers the veteran to-day;
But the grateful love of many,
Helped by him on Heavenly way.

Mightiest empires may be shaken,
Loftiest thrones may be cast down,
But for every "faithful servant"
Is "laid up" a fadeless crown.

26th August, 1847-1897.

Holloway's Pills and Ointment.—Influenza, Coughs and Colds.—In diseases of the throat and chest, so prevalent in our changeable climate, nothing so speedily relieves, or so certainly cures, as these inestimable remedies. These disorders are too often neglected at their commencement, or are injudiciously treated, resulting in either case in disastrous consequences. Whatever the condition of the patient, Holloway's remedies will restore, if recovery be possible; they will retard the alarming symptoms till the blood is purified and nature consummates the cure, gradually restoring strength and vital nervous power. By persevering in the use of Holloway's preparations, tone is conferred on the stomach and frame generally. Thousands of persons have testified that by the use of these remedies alone they have been restored to health after every other means had failed. (14)

DR. MUIRHEAD'S JUBILEE.

27th Aug.

We heartily congratulate the Rev. Dr. Muirhead upon the completion of fifty years of life and work in Shanghai. He has won for himself an unique place in the esteem of his fellow citizens, and we hope he may be spared yet many years to continue his beneficent activities.

DEBTS OF HONOUR.

27th Aug.

In half-a-dozen different minds, half-a-dozen different pictures from Nature's own storehouse of cinematographs will be recalled by these every day words. In one, the scene will be that of an old English race-course. Glorious sunshine above, brilliant beauty below, a rush of sympathetic excitement, a race lost and won—a debt of honour. Or, it may be that the open air with its measureless depths of ethereal blue, gives place to the closer atmosphere of a sporting club, and the green of its gaming tables; or, possibly, a more homely scene, a quiet game in a cosy parlour may fill in the mental outline. It matters little. The result is the same, and many there be who have arrived thereat. But it is not to this sort of debt that we refer. Shanghai has its race-course, it is true, and it would be idle to deny that some of its residents have at various times incurred responsibilities thereon, just as the mysteries of poker, and the possibilities of unlimited loo have involved other speculative mortals. But these are individual, and the debts we refer to are collective and are due from the community as a whole. They are not of the debenture kind, and therefore do not call for an annual appropriation of interest. There is never a sign of them on the share list of the most enterprising broker. And as they cannot be repaid in dollars and cents they are beyond the control of comrade or banker. Such debts sit lightly, so lightly that men are apt to forget all about them, and the creditors to whom they are due are occasionally in danger—having cast down their pearls—of being rent in return.

Any debt that cannot legally be enforced may be called a debt of honour; but so far as communities are concerned the truism regarding many communal requirements is equally applicable to communal debts of honour.—"What's everybody's business is nobody's business." Ever since these settlements were first formed, we have had a succession of residents, many of them men of high attainments and great ability, who have devoted their time, their energies, and, not unfrequently, their money to make the place what it is to-day, a model for every foreign community east of Calcutta. Do we not owe something for all this? Have we not passed I.O.U.'s negotiable in gratitude, honour and respect wherever the owner or the occupier of ever so little of Shanghai soil may be?

Our older residents need no reminder of this; they have seen the growth and know the watchful care which fostered it. New comers must judge by the results. A few years ago it would have been unnecessary and uncalled for to refer to such matters as these. But a change has come or is coming over the attitude of the public towards the men who voluntarily manage its affairs. We refer not alone to the Council but to almost all public institutions. Men of the sixties and seventies will say that all this is due to the comparatively inferior class of men sent out in recent years. Be that as it may, we are threatened with what is apparently one of the curses of democracy all the world over, and that is the refusal, for sufficient reasons, of the best men of a community to take the lead in its government. We say "threatened" advisedly, for while signs of the future decadence are not wanting, the *facilis descensus* has not actually begun, and may with care be prevented.

A course of municipal reports would be sufficient to cure the most dyspeptic ratepayer of the mistaken idea that seems to be growing up that it is desirable for "the man in the street" to have his finger in every public pie, even before the cooks have completed its construction. He would learn that what is not good policy in the management of joint-stock companies is not good policy in the carrying on of public business. He would see that the directors alone are able, while a controverted point is still *sub judice*, to form a reasonable opinion as to their best course of action, and this would teach him that; in addition to the debts we owe to our public men for what they have already done, there is one other that they may fairly claim, and that is the right to be let alone, to be fully trusted, and not trammelled by unnecessary interference from incompetent outsiders. Comparing great matters with small, we may point to the invariable custom of the mother of all free senates—the British House of Commons—where it is necessary merely to hint that the discussion of certain questions would embarrass the government to have that subject dropped till a more convenient season. There are difficulties enough in the *imperium in imperio* in which we live without officious interference to multiply them.

As to the claims upon our gratitude and respect due not merely to Councilmen but to many other public bodies, it would be entirely needless to refer were it not that year by year our numbers are being recruited by many, who knowing nothing of our past, feel scant respect for those who made it. Few places have had a more efficient band of public servants than Shanghai. We could point to instances within our personal knowledge where, for weeks together, a man has devoted from four to six hours per day to the general good, has given up his leisure, his rest,

and sometimes even sacrificed his business, so that his honorary duties should be faithfully and efficiently performed. Members of the Chamber of Commerce, of the China Association, of the S.V.C. and S.F.D., will bear us out in these remarks. That the result of all this unpaid labour has been of enormous value goes without saying. But for it there would have been no Shanghai as we know it. Our present position is due to the constant care and thought of the best men who have resided amongst us; our future will be equally dependent upon the quality of its unpaid workers. But when, in addition to labour and responsibility, a man has to face the risk of ill-founded criticism and ignorant abuse as a reward for his services, he may well be excused for thinking twice before exposing himself to such gratuitous insults. For this reason it behoves even the most omniscient amongst us, to look rather at the many excellences than at the few shortcomings of our public men, and to remember that for the great things we expect from them, there are corresponding debts of honour to be paid.

Review.

THE FRENCH MAIL PAPERS.

(FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 16TH OF JULY.)

THE abortive result of the South Africa Committee enquiry has been a subject for a good deal of discussion by the Press, but there is not one paper that has unqualified commendation of the labours of the Committee; some few try to make excuses for the lame result and shocking waste of time, while many treat it with scorn and contempt. The *Times*, of course, tries to make the best of it, but fully explains all that has come out of the enquiry, as the following extract will show:—

Mr. Jackson, on the meeting of the House of Commons yesterday, brought up and laid on the table the Report of the Select Committee on the Transvaal raid. Though this document, of course, has not yet been printed and will not be formally accessible to the public for a few days, its contents are no secret. The evening journals gave an outline last night, and we are able to publish this morning a full summary of the conclusions arrived at by the Committee. It cannot be said that they will cause the public any surprise whatever. The general feeling, we are sure, will be one of relief at the termination of an enquiry which can produce no possible advantage if carried further, and which, if protracted indefinitely, must delay or defeat that process of reconciliation which we are happily already beginning to witness in South Africa. The presentation of the Report closes a long and angry controversy. There will, no doubt, be a debate in the House of Commons on the subject, but as the leading representatives of the Opposition concurred with the supporters of the Government in all the findings there is, practically, not much room for discussion.

The situation created by the Report, which may very nearly be described as unanimous, is not likely to be altered either by Parliamentary discussion or by a supplementary enquiry into the administration of the British South Africa Company. Into this subject the Report declines to enter and we may assume that it will be left to be dealt with by the Colonial Office. The cessation of controversy is the more desirable as the excitement of feeling produced by the raid has already abated in South Africa and there is reason to

hope that all sections are learning once more to work for the common good. A fresh start for the policy of co-operation between the English and Dutch races south of the Zambesi is the paramount necessity of the hour, and the man who does anything to obstruct this will be grievously culpable. Apart from this general result there is nothing that is at all novel or astonishing in the conclusions arrived at by the committee. For a long time past—and especially since his own very outspoken evidence—it has been anticipated that the conduct of Mr. Rhodes would be severely censured. Mr. Rhodes himself accepted the results of the enquiry at the Cape as conclusive generally on matters of fact. These findings show that Mr. Rhodes, with Mr. Beit, Dr. Jameson, and Dr. Rutherford Harris, was the moving spirit of a scheme for subsidising, organising, and stimulating an armed insurrection against the Transvaal Government and employing the forces of the Chartered Company to support it. His responsibility, therefore, remains, even though he did not authorise the actual raid. That responsibility is a grave one, for he represented a combination of powerful interests, not only as Prime Minister of Cape Colony, but as head of the Chartered Company, the De Beers Mines, and the Consolidated Goldfields. These powers, it is found, he misused and mismanaged, and in doing so he was led into grave breaches of duty and into the infliction of serious injury on the highest interests of Great Britain in South Africa—interests which we, for our part, continue to believe that he had sincerely at heart, and his zeal for which is not denied even by Mr. Labouchere. Mr. Rhodes involved both the colony of which he was the trusted Minister and the Imperial Government in painful embarrassment, and brought about a “breach of international comity” with the Transvaal State. The secrecy in which he wrapt up his policy led him to deceive the High Commissioner, the leading members of the Cape Government, and the directors of the Chartered Company, and to convey to his subordinates the misleading impression that his projects had the approval of his superiors and theirs. This course of conduct, however, it may be explained by a determination to maintain the unity of South Africa under the British flag, or by a generous sympathy with the undoubted grievances of the Uitlanders at Johannesburg, cannot be defended in a public man occupying the position of Mr. Rhodes.

With respect to the other official personages in South Africa and elsewhere against whom charges, more or less plausible, had been brought, the Committee completely exonerates the High Commissioner. They report that there is no evidence whatever to show that Lord Rosmead had any knowledge of the impending use of troops in the Transvaal, and they add that “in trying and difficult circumstances he did everything that was possible to maintain the honour of his country.” Sir Graham Bower and, in a less degree, Mr. Newton are censured for not communicating to the High Commissioner the information they had got from Mr. Rhodes himself of the proposed use of Dr. Jameson’s force. Though it may be pleaded that they were guilty of nothing more than an error in judgment, it is an error which must clearly operate as a disqualification for their maintenance in such responsible offices as they have hitherto occupied in South Africa. On the more important question whether or not the Secretary of State or the permanent officials at the Colonial Office had any previous knowledge or warning of the raid, the Committee fully acquit them all of any cognisance of the matter. They have also come to the conclusion that the directors of the Chartered Company, with the exception of Mr. Beit and Mr. Maguire, were kept in ignorance of the projects of Mr. Rhodes and of his intention of employing the company’s forces against the Transvaal State. These findings exhaust the points.

The *Daily News* condemns the Report, and considering all that the Committee pretended they were going to do at the outset, its strictures are not too severe:—

The only excuse alleged for the Committee’s failure to obtain material, and indeed vital, evidence is that the process would have taken time, and that an immediate report on the Raid was of supreme importance. Why?

In arguing last year in favour of a Select Committee as against a judicial Commission, Sir William Harcourt showed that time was not important. The essential thing, he said then, was to find out all the facts, and not to be in a hurry to report on an incomplete state of facts. What has happened since to reverse this order, and to make it essential to have done with the thing at once, before all the facts have been found out? When once the Government decided to delay at all, the question of a little more or a little less delay became supremely unimportant. The inquiry was doomed from its birth to be “stale and fly-blown,” as Lord Rosebery said. But it might at least have been complete. For the Committee to say “we could not stop to ascertain the full truth because it was so important for us to be only twelve months late instead of fifteen,” will strike the ordinary man as an insult to his intelligence. A Committee, including so many clever and ingenious men, must have been in very bad straits if it could invent no better justification than this for its failure to obtain the suppressed documentary evidence and the attendance of absent witnesses.

The *Daily Chronicle* is much more severe; it says:—

The mouse is born. The tenour of the report of the majority of the South Africa Committee, together with the minority report of Mr. Labouchere, is published, and we know the true character of this fiasco. The Committee was appointed, under circumstances of unusual gravity, to probe to the bottom the plot by which the peace of South Africa and the honour of the Empire had been compromised; and to report as to the administrative methods of the Chartered Company and their fitness to be trusted with like powers in future. The second subject—the first suggested reason of enquiry—they have not even approached, and the Government are left absolutely without guidance as to the way in which Rhodesia has been governed. The first they have dropped at the most interesting, and indeed at the most important point. And now they present a report which tells us nothing except what all the world knew many months ago. They denounce some people and absolve others with unctuous conviction. They confess that they have not had before them certain vital parts of the existing evidence; they have to guess even at what it might tend to show, but they conclude that they do not want to be bothered with it any further. They express some pious horror at what they find to be an international crime, as well as a disastrous blunder; but they have neither remedies or punishments to suggest. The plea for this line of action—or inaction—is that it is important to report over again before the House rises the things which the Cape Committee told us ages ago, about Mr. Rhodes’s responsibility for the Jameson Plan, and, indirectly, for the Raid itself. Such a conclusion to an enquiry launched by the Supreme Court of Parliament is disgraceful.

The *Financial Times* disagrees with the necessity for the enquiry and ridicules the result, but seems to find some hope for South Africa from the existing state of affairs:

The appointment of the Committee was a blunder, its performances have been ridiculous in so far that nothing new or important has been discovered, and the sole result has been a most unedifying waste of time. There really is no obstacle left to a substantial recovery in the Kaffir market. One thing is quite certain—by no possibility can things be worse than they have been during the past year, and they may be much better. The Transvaal Government may not do all that is asked of it, but it must do something. The dynamite monopoly, for instance, may not be abolished, but it must be modified by a reduction of price. The Netherlands Railway, again, may not be expropriated by the State, but it is practically certain that rates must be lowered. The ravages of the rinderpest cannot last for ever, and the labour question will surely be taken in hand. Everything, therefore, is in favour of the bulls, and points to the coming of that September boom about which we hear so much. If the Committee has done nothing else, it deserves our gratitude for having, as we hope, finally disposed of a question which has too long diverted the attention of business

men from the practical side of the gold industry.

It is pleasant to turn from the censures of the South Africa Committee of Enquiry to the rejoicing and unanimous praise of the Press on the announcement that Mr. Goschen was able to make at the banquet given at St. George’s Club to the Colonial Premiers, that the Prime Minister of Cape Colony had presented the British Government with a first-class ironclad. What this really amounts to the *Daily News* thus concisely states:—

The prime cost of a first-class modern battleship ranges from three-quarters of a million to nearly a million sterling. The cost of the *Majestic* was about £911,000. The *Magnificent* was more expensive. We have yet to learn the details of the Colonial present; but, even measuring it by the cost of our least expensive first-class ironclads, it is a handsome gift to receive from a colony with a revenue of very little over five-and-a-quarter millions, out of which over £160,000 is already devoted to purposes of defence. But the precise value of the Cape’s gift in pounds, shillings, and pence is not what John Bull will mainly think of, in spite of all that is said about his commercial instincts. As Mr. Goschen said, we do not wish to turn the enthusiasm of the Jubilee into cash; and had there been any bargain to make with the Colony this would not have been the time to drive it. What is so pleasing about this surprise is that it concedes unasked all that was known by the Cape Colonists to be most likely to please the Mother Country. Whatever view may be taken of the Cape’s action, and it will be looked at from many points of view, there is none that will fail to give pleasure throughout the Empire, and to strengthen the sentiment of union which has been founded upon the principles of British freedom.

The *Standard* is eloquent in acknowledging the value of the gift and the unrestricted method in which it is made:—

The gift is rendered yet more precious by the wise and unqualified manner in which it is made. It is an absolute one, and the ironclad to be added to the British Navy by Cape Colony is to be merged in the Imperial Fleet, and is to be employed, like every other vessel-of-war on the Navy List, for the general purposes of Imperial defence. It is not to be stationed specially off Simon’s Bay. Our brethren at the Cape recognise, in this practical fashion, the fact that they and the territory they inhabit are only a portion of the British Empire, whose naval operations must, in case of war, be directed from London and by the English Government. There is true statesmanship, as well as financial generosity, in the gift; and it is most gratifying to observe that the real and sound principles of Imperial Defence have sunk deep into the minds of our Colonists. In adding to the strength of the English Navy, therefore, as the Cape has just done, without attaching any condition to the contribution, our Colonies would in reality take the surest and most efficacious measures for their own protection. Nothing would be more fatal than for the various parts of the Empire to fritter away their fighting capacity on mere local efforts; for they would then be sinning against the all important military principle of concentration. Sir J. Gordon Sprigg and the Cape Colonists have evidently mastered these fundamental rules of war; and though the sagacity with which their support is given does not in the least detract from its generosity, it is quite certain that, even from the most self-regarding point of view, the money they so liberally have resolved to spend could not be laid out more profitably. This is the first fruit of the great Naval Review at Spithead; and it has been as quick in coming as it is satisfactory in character.

The Engineering strike had arrived at a very dangerous stage when the last mail left England, as the lock-out had commenced, and bitter feeling and obstinate determination was exhibited on either side; and as the Amalgamated Society of Engineer is possessed of ample funds the fight will probably be a prolonged one. The masters contend that foreign competition is keen

enough at present without any concessions, and that if they yield to the demands of the men it will mean that Great Britain will lose a large slice of the ship-building trade on which the strikers depend for a livelihood as well as their employers. As one leading paper truly puts it. "The ruin of the one involves not the triumph but the destruction of the other. So obvious is this truism that we can yet trust the common sense of both sides to the present dispute to seek an escape from a difficulty which threatens to handicap, if not to ruin, the trade, in the success of which both are equally concerned."

The *Spectator* very concisely explains the position, as follows:—

The contest between the Amalgamated Society of Engineers and the Federation of Engineer Employers has begun, and threatens to be a bitter one. The Society turned out its men in London on Wednesday, and the Federation responded by a lock-out, that is, in practice, by notices of dismissal to all hands connected with the Society. The numbers affected are variously given, but it seems clear that in London alone, where the Federation is not at its strongest, the number locked out will shortly rise to twenty thousand. The men contend that they are fighting for an eight-hour day, and that the lock-out is an oppression; but the masters answer that this is nonsense, inasmuch as the men are willing to do overtime with double pay, and only wish for more hours to do it in. Such a demand may be extended indefinitely, and the masters have therefore combined for resistance. It appears from a statement published in the *Times* that the engineers generally earn about 84d. an hour, or 6s. 2d. a day, or 37s. a week, not enormous wages for a very highly skilled form of labour. The men as yet reject arbitration, and it is to be feared that the fight will continue until the spare funds of the Union are exhausted. These are large, but the Society seems inclined to grant the strike-pay of 15s. a week to non-union men who side with them,—a bold but expensive policy. We have a sympathy with the eight-hour movement, believing leisure to be essential to civilisation, but there is an insincerity in pressing this plea and this still allowing overtime.

From the *Economist* of the 10th July, we take the following note of the Money Market:—

Although the market has now repaid the Bank the six millions or so borrowed at the end of the half-year, it still remains overburdened with funds, and even the very low rates now current are with difficulty sustained. Nor is there the prospect of any immediate change. More money will be wanted soon for holiday and harvest purposes, but in present circumstances that demand will be little, if at all, felt. Of more importance is the possibility of gold shipments hence to the States in the autumn. At that time of the year there is usually a flow of gold from this side to pay for our purchases of corn and cotton. The Americans, however, have of late been buying largely of wool and other products in anticipation of the new tariff, and thus creating an indebtedness which will in part be a set-off against the amount that will become due to them. There is, too, the currency question to be taken into consideration. The Silver party in the States have unquestionably become emboldened by the failure of the McKinley Administration to take any action towards a monetary reform, and there is in some quarters talk of a renewal of the silver agitation in the course of the next two or three months. That, by causing a feeling of uneasiness to spring up again, might induce gold to flow from rather than to the States. But in regard to matters of that kind, which cannot begin to make their influence felt for some time yet, it is not of much use to speculate. And looking to the near future the prospect is for a continuance of very cheap money.

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Outports.

CHUNGKING.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

THE TRIENNIAL EXAMINATIONS.

Our capital is again in a disturbed condition. The triennial examinations at Chêngtu for the degree of *chüên* commence on the 3rd of September, and ten to fifteen thousand students from the 111 counties, which make up the Great Western province of China, compete for the hundred degrees which are all the Government grants; being at the rate of thirty-three degrees a year for a population as large as that of all Britain! No wonder it is a coveted distinction, although not one-tenth of the successful graduates can hope to be immediately appointed to actual office. The sacrifices made by poor graduates of the *hsüts'ai* grade to enable them to compete for the *chüên* degree at the provincial capital are often very great, and a great tax on their friends and relations who subscribe the needful funds for the journey;—especially as many continue to go up for examination periodically, as long as their lives last or until they at last succeed. Many of these are poor teachers and, during the drudgery of pedagogy, have to keep up their own knowledge of the classics from Alpha to Omega. Hence it is not strange that the majority are discontented, and ever ready to demonstrate "agin the Government" should occasion arise. We now learn that a riot has been attempted in Chêngtu by the students making common cause with disbanded soldiers; for, owing to the enforced economy due to the diversion of the Customs' revenue to the Japanese indemnity, the Viceroy has felt compelled to dismiss seven of the ten camps which formed the garrison of the provincial metropolis. The students on their part have a special grievance this year in that the *hsüts'ai* of last year, who must have their local degree confirmed by the Literary Chancellor at the capital, before they can go up for their *chüên* degree, have, by a new regulation, to give in their names and don their official robes,—a rule not previously enforced.

DISTURBANCE AT CHÊNGTU.

Again, the rebuilding, at Government expense, on a grander scale than ever of the numerous mission buildings, burnt by the mob in the riots of 1895, have kept the Chêngtu populace, incited by the jealous *Literati*, in a ferment ever since. This has culminated in the erection by night of banners on the city walls inscribed with the following legend:—

"When officials oppress the people, rebel; assemble together the ten camps; exterminate the foreigners for your country's good."

Three out of the four city gates have been closed, so the authorities regard the matter as serious. Whether, however, the disturbance will amount to more than the vapourings of the trained bands of Chungking, who turned out in their myriads to oppose the establishment here of the Japanese, remains to be seen. The students enter the examination halls on the 3rd of September and come out on the 12th.

THE I. C. POST.

Our post is getting more erratic than ever. Although the Commissioner of Customs has his Shanghai papers up to the 3rd of July; we, poor outside mortals, have received nothing, since a week ago we got your paper of the 16th June. A week before that we received the *N. C. D. News* of 23rd June, and we are still without the account of your Jubilee or of the London celebration. Thus we are 46 days without our Shanghai papers; by our old Local Post 25 days sufficed.

7th August.

COREA.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

A LIVELY TIME.

The muddy waters of the pool here were recently stirred up vigorously by an unexpected and embarrassing outbreak. The old Prince Parent, the "stormy petrel" of Korean political seas, suddenly appeared on the scene and made things lively for a time. The Taiwön-Kun has been in retirement for nearly two years past, and during this time a guard has been kept on him and a strict but secret espionage maintained as well. Under the vigorous *régime* of Yi Yun-yong, who is the Taiwön-kun's son-in-law, on the "left hand side," this espionage was strictly and successfully maintained. The Metropolitan Police force is now headed by one of the younger and less known members of the Min class, whose administration has been distinguished by an abortive and outrageous effort to pay off the old scores of some of his clansmen. The other day the Prince-Parent, knowing the weakening he had to deal with, suddenly seized the guards set over him, tied them with ropes and appeared at the Metropolitan Police headquarters. Of course, Mr. Min was out. He had urgent business at the Palace. But as it was to see him and give him a fatherly thrashing that the old gentleman had come, he was not to be put off. Five messengers in succession were dispatched before the recalcitrant Head could be induced to transact his business and return to his post. Then for three hours the old gentleman "boiled" him, as the Koreans say, and when he got through Mr. Min's spirit and feelings was one mass of lacerations. From the Police Court the Taiwön-Kun went to the Palace and saw His Majesty for half an hour, and then went peacefully back to his residence, and the storm was over. It was a comedy admirably timed in the warm weather and the grin on the community's face still lingers in spots.

A DIPLOMAT IN TROUBLE.

Things are outwardly quiet, but underneath, there is a current of disquiet and uncertainty. Min Söng-whan, Ambassador to the Courts of Europe, has been suddenly and summarily disgraced, ordered to return to Korea and enter exile on the island of Quelpart. The ostensible reason for this is that he suddenly deserted his post and came out to America without permission. This, however, is one of those diplomatic subtleties which is only too transparent. Min Yöng-whan is one of the most popular and respected members of the old *régime*. His reputation up to the present has been of the very highest possible character. There must be and there is some very serious miscarriage of affairs entrusted to him to have brought about such deep disgrace. The tainted breath of rumour whispers that he has been engaged in improper negotiations with a certain government to which he was accredited, but up to the present this is rumour.

RUSSIAN MILITARY INSTRUCTORS.

Thirteen more Russian officers have had their contracts signed with the Korean government and will be distributed throughout the army. They have, I believe, arrived in Seoul and propose to enter immediately on their duties.

MINISTERIAL CHANGES.

Another cabinet crisis has passed successfully and without bloodshed, though probably not without hard feeling; H.E. Min Chong-menk has been relieved of the portfolio of Education and made full Minister of Foreign Affairs, which he held as an acting appointment. H.E. Yi Wan-tong has been given the portfolio of Education, and we are glad to say has accepted. For a long time the Cabinet has been without a head, but unless some mistake has been made in the publication, H.E. Shim Sun-taik has been

gazetted' as Prime Minister. Mr. Shim is an aged nobleman of the highest distinction and the most invertebrate of records. Under the old régime he held the post of Prime Minister of the Centre or Senior Prime Minister, for there were three Prime Ministers then. Shim was the willing and complacent tool of the Mins all through their many years of corruption and oppression, and if it is really true that he is to be Prime Minister again it means that some Power has placed him there to serve their purposes. We shall see later on.

MR. MCLEAVY BROWN

is rapidly accumulating another magnificent surplus and showing what honesty and square dealing can do for the finances of the country.

THE UNITED STATES MINISTERS.

The U.S. Government has accepted the resignation of Hon. J. M. B. Sill as Minister and appointed Dr. H. N. Allen as his successor. The entire community parts with Mr. Sill with the most sincere regret. He has been the democratic representative of a democratic government, and has been popular with all nationalities. But it is one of the incidents of a presidential campaign in the United States that changes in its diplomatic corps always attends it. In a case like that of Mr. Sill this is to be regretted. However if a change had to be made no more satisfactory selection could have been made than that of Dr. H. N. Allen. One of the oldest foreign residents in Corea he has risen step by step through various offices of trust, until he now holds the highest post an American can attain in Corea. We predict that his administration of the Legation will be one of the most successful yet known. In Mrs. Allen the Legation will have one of the most popular and delightful hostesses that ever reigned there.

Seoul, 5th August.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

THE JAPANESE PRESS.

It has often been observed that when Corea is comparatively quiet the Seoul correspondents of the Japanese Press are correspondingly active in manufacturing news in order to give some *raison d'être* for their existence. The latest attempt, however, runs counter to the old saw that "every lie contains a grain of truth." The startling news of cholera and famine and plagues of locusts are absolutely without foundation, for the missionary doctors tell us that the death rate amongst the natives has not been so low for years, and the natives unite in saying that there is a prospect of a very good rice crop. As for locusts none have yet been seen. Why the European Press continues to give credence to all the startling news sent by Japanese correspondents is difficult to understand, considering that they have so frequently been taken in. There are no deaths from starvation, there are no locusts, there is no cholera and the beggars are not "forty years of age" but young boys ranging from fourteen years to twenty, half a dozen or perhaps a dozen in number in Seoul and about the same in Chemulpo.

RUSSIAN MILITARY INSTRUCTORS.

Three more commissioned and ten non-commissioned Russian officers have arrived as instructors to the Korean army. They do their work very well, and the new regiments present quite a fine appearance, the words of command being given in Russian. The arrival of these officers has caused quite a stir in the Japanese Legation and Mr. Kato, the Minister, immediately sent a despatch to the Minister of the Foreign Office demanding to know why the Korean Government engaged Russian instructors. The Foreign Office referred him to the Department of War and the Minister of the War Office replied that the Government had

a right to employ whoever it liked and therefore he did not consider it necessary to give reasons for his actions to Mr. Kato. Mr. Kato then called upon the Minister of War, but the latter was indisposed and unable to see him.

That greatest of all farces,

THE INDEPENDENCE CLUB,

has been celebrating the anniversary of the founding of the dynasty with speechifying and other ridiculous acts. It was founded by Kim Ka Chin of illegitimate birth, An Kyeng Su of no birth at all, and maintained chiefly by hangers-on who like Barkis "are willin'" to serve their country (and draw a salary) should His Majesty recognise their merit and loyalty. It is chiefly conspicuous for inability in everything excepting high flown talk, and publishes a semi-monthly magazine which comes out two months after date and gives a resumé of the Greco-Turkish War, the Cuban Rebellion and other items of interest to the Korean world at large.

18th August.

FOOCHOW.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

We have been having beautiful weather since the typhoon, which was disagreeably near us on the 9th instant, passed by. The summer has been a cool one with us.

TEA.

The feature of the season is the short supply of Congou and Souchong. It is said that Congou will be, in the end, 180,000 half-chests less in quantity than last year. As the London market is not offering much encouragement, it must be this shortness, coupled probably with the very low exchange, that has led to comparatively few shipments having been made of late. Irrespective of the *Bayern*, we have shipped about 1½ million pounds in ten days, which brings up the export to Europe, to this date, to within one quarter of a million pounds of last year's figures. Of course, this will be altered by and bye. The total export for the season must show an important falling off. The Foochow Tea Improvement Company has this week held a sale, at this port, of some 180 half-chests of their machine made tea, all offers being made under sealed tender. I understand that the average price obtained was considered very satisfactory, while the three first lines of Orange Pekoe are reported to have been sold in the neighbourhood of Tls. 45 per picul.

21st August.

ICHANG.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

THE WEATHER.

The summer, we are glad to think, is getting pretty well past, though the last two or three days have been the hottest of the season. Like most other places, we have had it cooler than usual this year. Even the Customs' thermometer has kept pretty much in the "nineties" and has only gone into three figures on two or three occasions, as for instance, to-day (10th). But the rainfall has been considerable, measuring 17 inches in July; one day alone showing 4 inches. Recently there has been a succession of sudden rains and thunderstorms, soon past, but thoroughly wetting everything while they lasted, so much so that tennis was stopped for a whole week.

THE RIVER

which reached its greatest height some time ago has fallen considerably again. Up here there was nothing unusual, but below Shasi and right down to Hankow the whole country is this year under water. The natives say that it is Hunan water which has caused the floods, and certainly we have

had nothing here to account for water on the Bund at Hankow. A day or more out from Hankow, there seems to be water on both sides as far as the eye can reach. It is sad in the extreme to see not only the fields covered, but villages and towns with water in the streets, in not a few cases up to the eaves of the houses, the poor folks being driven out to find refuge where they can.

GENERAL.

Things are very quiet here just now, there is not the exodus from our port that seems to have taken place from others, but nobody is very brisk, and most would be glad if a "Kuling" could be found on our hills as well as at Kiukiang. The plague I told you of, so far as I can hear, seems to have abated amongst the natives, though an odd case does occur even yet. This being the seventh month, the natives have been sending little lamp-boats down the River every night for a week or more. From dusk till midnight, or nearly, hundreds of little lights come sailing down from the upper part of the city, and make a most beautiful picture as they go down the broad reach of the Yangtze just below the city. They must be made of more durable material than in many places, for one can trace them pretty well down to the Pagoda, five miles from where they start. The superstition that seeks thus to quiet the spirits of the drowned, we must pity, but certainly it gives a great deal of delight to the living. One never tires of watching these little light ships as they go dancing down the rippling river, not quenched but sailing boldly on into the darkness.

12th August.

KIUKIANG.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

THE DEATH OF DR. UNDERWOOD.

Our community at Kiukiang has suffered a severe loss in the death of our beloved physician Dr. G. R. Underwood, which took place at Kuling on the 10th of August. Dr. Underwood was seized with typhoid fever in January, which was followed by other complications that baffled the skill of his medical advisers. He was removed from his residence in Kiukiang early in the summer to the cool and pleasant heights of our new sanatorium at Kuling, and it was hoped that he might at least regain strength sufficient to allow of his return home in September, a trip which he had been anticipating before his illness. Even this hope, however, was doomed to disappointment. He gradually lost strength until it was quite evident that all hope of recovery must be abandoned, and he was destined soon to take the journey to the long home. His illness throughout, though of a most trying nature, was borne with exemplary patience and fortitude, and he at last passed away peacefully and without a murmur. He was interred on Wednesday afternoon last in our recently acquired cemetery. A large number of sorrowing friends, both foreign and native, assembled in our little church to do honour to his memory, and the crowd of Chinese assembled on the Bund bore witness to the esteem and affection in which our good doctor was held by the native community. Dr. Underwood was a native of Dumfries and took his degree at Edinburgh University. He came to Kiukiang in 1881 and during all these 16 years he has been resident in our port, making only one short visit to his native land. By his devotion to the duties of his profession, by his unflinching kindness and self-denying work for the good of others, he has endeared himself to all and left behind him a name which will long live in the memories and hearts of all who have known him. His work in the Kiukiang hospital, carried on during all these years without fee or reward, bears testimony not only to his devotion to his profession but to the essential kindness

of his heart which led him always to seek to alleviate the sufferings of others and to help all, whether native or foreign, who needed his skill and attention. No one sought his sympathy in vain and there are scores of people who could tell of deeds of kindness done by the good doctor, about which he himself would have been the very last to speak. "He did good by stealth," and in unobtrusive ways. His Christianity showed itself by ministering to the needy and in a universal helpfulness. He will be greatly missed in all this region, and the epitaph we would write upon his grave would be the words of our blessed Lord: "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy." Our hearts go out in deep sympathy for Mrs. Underwood and the two little fatherless children. May the Divine Father comfort in this time of sorrow, and guide through life's journey which now has to be travelled alone!

16th August.

NINGPO.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

THE DIAMOND JUBILEE.

The British community in this port were very much gratified by a despatch which our Consul received the other day from Lord Salisbury, acknowledging the telegram of congratulation sent to Her Majesty the Queen, on the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee. The following is a copy of the despatch:—

Foreign Office,
June, 26th 1897.

SIR,—I am commanded by the Queen, my Sovereign, to express to you and the British community at Ningpo, Her Majesty's sincere thanks for your congratulations and good wishes, on the occasion of the sixtieth anniversary of Her Majesty's Accession to the throne.

I am, etc.,
(Sd.) SALISBURY.

G. M. H. PLAYFAIR, Esq.,
Her Majesty's Consul,
Ningpo.

THE SUMMER

is treating us kindly so far. With the exception of one week, there has been no excessive heat, and with comparatively cool nights, life has been quite bearable. Most of the missionaries have left for the cooler atmosphere of the hills, or for the refreshing sea-breezes of Chefoo. There has been very little sickness amongst the foreigners and natives. Another item of good news is, the first rice-harvest has turned out to be at least an average one, many natives stating that it is much better than last year.

THE OPENING OF THE SILVER MINES in the Fenghua district is still being strenuously opposed. The demonstration organised by the people who lived in the village around the "precious" hill was such that the officials were unable to cope with it; nor have they yet mustered sufficient courage to again brave the opposition. There is a minority amongst the natives who would be glad to have the mines started but they were forced, under the penalty of having their houses destroyed, to join the hostile demonstration a few weeks ago. Fenghui, as usual, is assigned as the reason of this opposition:

"WANTED, A SHERLOCK HOLMES!"

might reasonably be the cry of some of the residents here. During the past four months a series of robberies have been perpetrated, eight or nine foreign houses having been visited by the "light-fingered gentry." All endeavours to arrest the thief or thieves, have, so far, been unsuccessful. One gentleman, reported to belong to the missionary community, has been breathing deep threatenings of what he will do, if only he can lay hands on the culprits!

PERSONAL

On Monday last, Mr. Pym, of the I.M. Customs, left for Hangchow to take up the post of Acting Commissioner.

The last mail brought news of an honour done to an old resident of this port. The Rev. R. Swallow, M.D., who has been connected with the English Methodist Free Church Mission for the past 23 years, and who is now at home on furlough, was elected, by a large majority of delegates at the Annual Assembly held at Nottingham, to the much coveted position of President. All his old friends in Ningpo and in other parts of China heartily congratulate him, and feel sure that he will ably fulfil the duties of his office.

21st August.

PEKING.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

THE WEATHER.

We had more rain in the spring than usual and it augured well for the wheat crop, but strong winds and a hailstorm played havoc with it. The beginning of the summer was cool and dry and we were congratulating ourselves upon another cool dry season. The crops were beginning to suffer. In the beginning of July we had three nights of the most vivid lightning with continuous thunder, high wind and some rain, lasting for two or three hours; then we had one night of rain. Altogether the rainfall did not exceed four inches. On Wednesday, the 28th, our rainy season began and continued without intermission till Saturday, during which time ten and a-half inches of rain fell, thus more than making up for its late arrival and bringing it well within the ordinary average, if not exceeding it. Since then two more inches have fallen. The only damage however reported beyond the fall of walls has been a portion of the Tientsin line washed away, but that has been speedily restored. The temperature in our rooms by day and night has been steadily standing between 80 and 90, but nearer and more often over the latter figure than the former. Many of the nights have been particularly trying. The oppressiveness has been severely felt since August opened. We have never had such a hot August so far. On the 12th a slight wind blew which has rendered conditions more bearable.

14th August.

WESTERN SHANTUNG.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

A SCARE AND THE CONSEQUENCE.

There has been little excitement here this summer, unless the scare about the kidnapping can be called such. There were the same rumours as in Tientsin, and one man was arrested. The unfortunate fellow, who is thought to have been innocent, was hung up by the neck in a cage with his toes just touching the ground, and died after a few days of the torture.

THE GRAIN FLEET

has come and gone, not quite as large, they say, as it usually is. Frequent showers make glad the hearts of the whole people.

ROBBERS.

On the 24th ult. a band of robbers broke into the *haien-yamen* at 内黄縣 (Nei-huang, Honan), and carried off all the silver besides the seal of the *yamen*. The magistrate had got wind of the approach of the men, and had hidden the seal in his wife's apartment, after which he made his escape. But the robbers were not to be thus fooled, and the *t'ai'ai* surrendered at discretion. Hence, it happened that when the said official reached his *yamen* he was in

the predicament of not (nominally) being even an official! The band its are said to have come from Shantung.

Linch'ing, 2nd August.

NOTES FROM SHENSI.

CROPS.

The harvest has just been finished and turned out a miserable failure. In most cases only half or even one third crops have been reaped. Grain is now at nearly famine prices and the general outlook is very bad. There are several causes for the abnormal state of things:—(1) The enormous increase in the growth of opium cultivation that displaces wheat in good soils. (2) The occurrence of blight that destroyed an otherwise promising crop. (3) The enormous demand for grain from the south of the province where famine has been raging for several months. Added to these causes is the constant enemy of the farmer here—ignorance of agricultural laws. The richness of the soil; the opulence of nature in all her supplies and resources is possibly nowhere surpassed. Yet, in the winter time, a family will shiver to death above seams of coal or die of starvation in the midst of abundance. There are strange paradoxes in the world and the potentialities compared with the realities in China form some startling puzzlers. It has always seemed strange that those who complain of the incompetence of ordinary methods do not combine in some self-supporting industrial scheme which would be easily floated and doubtless highly appreciated. But enough of weather; crops and their moral.

EDUCATIONAL.

We are seeing the symptoms of what can only be described as "mental typhoons." Hitherto the most of the *literati* credited Confucius with omniscience and so felt well at ease in laboriously crooning the Classics that record his sage sayings and political philosophy. But now there comes an Imperial command to acquire *Shih-wu* (時務), and *K'eh-chih* (格致) and many find their prestige gone and craft in danger. Nor is that the worst. It were comparatively easy and welcome to leave a sinking ship but to plunge into the deep sea! That is their predicament. Essay writing and pen flourishing may have to go but what next? What of this "Science"—that awful bugbear? So some, like the Turk in battle, are raising the battle cry of a forlorn hope that to their standard of faith they'll cling to the death. Thus with all the self-possession which only real scholars in China could muster, many not only still believe, but triumphantly assert; (to adapt an Oxford rhyme)

We are scholars—*videlicet*

All there is to know, we know it;

We are B.A.'s from the college.—

What we know not is not knowledge.

On the other hand, not a few have become thoroughly alive to the new situation and the imperative need for liberal education. The Science College has been supplied with a few instruments; a teacher has been engaged from Shanghai, and plans for a real advance are in progress. We have another paper added to the increasing list. In this far off benighted city we have now no less than six newspapers—5 issued by Chinese and 1 by foreigners. The leaven is therefore at work and though slow it is no less sure.

MISSIONARY.

In a conversation with a missionary who recently came from Shanghai, he emphasised the fact that at every station, *en route*, baptisms were being administered. The additions in the province have not been few. Christianity, however, is altogether too Catholic, Humane, Progressive, Revolutionary and Vulgar, for it to make any rapid, or even extensive progress in China for some time

to come. It seems to me that Europe, especially England, is responsible for the present condition of both Turkey and China; both countries have been on the verge of disintegration or regeneration years ago, and but for the support received would have had very different histories—that may be political heresy not missionary news!

There have been two riots (or rather rows) here recently. In the district of Shanghai (商州) for some time past, there have been very strained relations between the members of the Catholic Church and the people. These culminated in a riot, during which the house used as a chapel together with several dwelling houses belonging to the Catholics, were burned down. The Catholics were terrorised and fled to the mountains. According to the official version of the case the Catholics set fire to the property themselves, in order to take revenge upon the outsiders. According to the Catholic version of the affair the whole has been a regularly arranged and definitely organised riot to clear them out of the district. The case is now being investigated by the Provincial Judge and will doubtless be soon settled. One cannot help observing how the dumb show and power made by the priests brings them and their cause into utter contempt. They ride in sedan chairs, have their retinue,—all a pretence to civil power; actions as alien to the spirit of the Gospel of Jesus Christ as to the meaning of the favours they enjoy from treaty stipulations.

The other row occurred in T'ungchoufu (同州府) where the Swedish Mission have a station. One of the missionaries when going along the street was so cursed at by a few children that he got irritated and cuffed one of them. This brought the father and a crowd to the scene and the missionary was glad to bolt, hotly pursued by an increasing crowd. Arrived at the mission premises the crowd were bent on battering down the doors, when the magistrate, who had been communicated with, arrived on horseback. Instantly the crowd dispersed and the row ended.

NOTES FROM THE SOUTH.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The past week has been very dull and the weather has for the most part been wet and gloomy. It is raining drearily at the moment and running up a good record for August. Early on the morning of the 12th inst. a severe thunderstorm passed over the Colony, lasting some five hours. It struck one of the Cameron Villas on Mount Kellett, tenanted by Capt. Welman, but the damage done was fortunately trifling. About three inches of rain fell during the storm.

The Pollard Lilliputian Opera Troupe have had a fairly successful season, especially considering the heat, and half the youth of the colony are charmed with the little lassies, who are very fetching on the stage and well-behaved off it. I only hope the praise and adulation they get here will not spoil the children. But they proceed to pastures new shortly, Monday night being their last appearance before departing for Singapore and Java.

THE CHARGES OF CORRUPTION AGAINST PUBLIC SERVANTS.

The charges of accepting bribes preferred against Mr. C. Osmund, Chief Clerk in the Registrar-General's Department, and Sanitary Inspector Hore, which were before the Executive Council last week, have been decided upon. It is considered that both officials have failed to clear themselves of the charges, and Mr. Osmund has, accordingly, been called upon to send in his resignation, and will have to accept a reduced pension: while Inspector Hore, who only recently joined the service, is dismissed. This decision has to be confirmed by the Secretary of State.

THE LIGHT DUES COMMISSION.

This Commission seems destined to prove a failure. Appointed in consequence of a demand made by the shipping interest that the light dues should be limited to the cost of the upkeep of the lights, etc., the Government proposed to widen its scope, to take in all sorts of sources from whence revenue was derived or spent on shipping. Mr. Herbert Smith, one of the Commission, protested against this and the Governor yielded to his representations and removed the clauses objected to from the Commission. But the unofficial members find it impossible, apparently, to get on with the officials, and Messrs. Smith and Thurburn have sent in their resignations to the Governor.

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANK MEETING.

The half-yearly meeting of the shareholders in the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation was held this morning at the City Hall. The Chairman, in his speech, alluded at some length to the recent fall in silver, but was able to assure the meeting that it had been provided against, and that the rise in their sterling securities more than counterbalanced the loss in exchange. There were no questions, and he then proposed the adoption of the report, which was briefly seconded by Mr. J. H. Lewis. The other formal business having been put through, a cordial vote of thanks to the directors, manager and staff was carried by acclamation, Mr. Jackson responding.

HONGKONG HOTEL COMPANY, LIMITED.

The report of the Directors of the above Company for the first half of the current year has just been issued. It is a very satisfactory one, and should be much appreciated by the shareholders. The balance at the disposal of the directors, after all payments, is \$31,791.70, out of which it is proposed to declare a dividend of 3 per cent for the half year, absorbing \$13,318.50, to write \$5,000 off the value of Furniture and Fixtures, and to carry forward to new account the balance of \$13,473.20. As will be seen, a much larger dividend might have been declared, but the Directors, mindful that the second half is always the lean period of the year, thought it prudent to keep something in hand. As the last dividend was paid in the first half of 1893 it will be a pleasant change for the Chairman to be able to talk about dividend warrants.

HONGKONG AND WHAMPOA DOCK CO., LD.

The report to be presented at the half-yearly meeting of the shareholders in the Dock Company, announced for the 23rd inst., is again a most favourable document. After payment of all fees and expenses there is a sum of \$421,050.59 available for appropriation. The directors recommend payment of a dividend for the half year of eight per cent and a bonus of 4 per cent, aggregating \$187,500, a bonus of \$20,000 to contributing shareholders, \$5,427 be written off value of Kowloon Docks (\$20,572 paid during six months on account of reconstruction of No. 1 slip passed direct to debit of revenue account), \$7,599.47 written off value of Cosmopolitan Dock, and \$5,633.12 from that of steam launches, that \$100,000 be passed to credit of Reserve Fund and the balance of \$95,790.92 be carried to new account. Truly a splendid showing. Happy shareholders!

A COTTON FACTORY FOR HONGKONG.

A Cotton Factory is projected in this colony, and the prospectus will shortly appear. The capital is to be \$1,200,000, of which \$900,000 will first be called up. This amount has, I hear, all been underwritten already, but the promoters intend to offer \$300,000 for subscription by the public. Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Co. are to be the General Managers and a site for the cotton mill has been secured at Sookumpo, near East Point. It is proposed, I believe, to have 30,000 spindles to start with.

MANSLAUGHTER AT WANCHAI.

The danger of striking a Chinaman received another illustration on the 8th inst. A youth of 18 was sent to Wanchai market to make some purchases, and went from thence to a shop at 47, Mullah Lane, where he ordered some seaweed. When payment came to be made he found that he had not sufficient money, and thereupon some wrangling ensued, the result being that the shopkeeper (a man named Cheung Chuk) struck the lad a blow in the left side, felling him to the ground. He got up and walked home, but soon became very ill and vomited. The Police were communicated with, and Inspector Mann sent the sufferer to hospital in a chair. On arrival there he was so ill that it was found necessary to take his dying depositions, and he died in less than two hours. The shopkeeper was arrested the same day.

LAMENTABLE DEATH BY DROWNING.

On Saturday evening, the 7th inst., Mr. H. R. Stay, chief officer of the P. & O. steamer *Shanghai*, himself the holder of the Royal Humane Society's medal for saving life, lost his life by drowning at Kowloon. The steamer was moored to the Godown Co.'s No. 1 Wharf, and the deceased and several other officers resolved to have a swim from off the vessel. Mr. Stay dived from the bridge, and in doing so fouled and landed on his back, but appeared to recover quickly and proceeded to strike out. When he was about half-way between the steamer and a lighter lying alongside the Praya wall, however, he was observed to swim deep and then to suddenly disappear. His brother officers at once went to his assistance, and three lascars belonging to the *Shanghai* also plunged in and managed to get a rope round Mr. Stay. He was then lifted on to the lighter and there every effort was made by artificial respiration and other means to restore him, three doctors being engaged, but after two hours had passed, life was declared to be extinct. At the enquiry subsequently held death was held to be due to failure of the heart's action consequent on the shock. Mr. Stay, who was a very popular officer, leaves a widow and three children. On Sunday a number of vessels half-masted their flags in token of respect for the unfortunate officer.

THE COLLISION BETWEEN THE DUTCH STEAMER "SPEDMAN" AND FRENCH BARQUE "DUGUESCLIN."

The French barque *Duguesclin*, which was in collision with the Dutch mail steamer *Spedman* on the 24th ult., arrived here on the 11th inst. with a cargo of coal from Cardiff. The steamer sustained great injury, her bulwarks being smashed, the chart room destroyed, and the steering gear damaged, while her captain was killed and several of the crew and passengers injured. The barque, although her bowsprit is smashed and all the rigging of the bowsprit carried away while two plates on the starboard and three on the port side are broken, is less severely damaged than the steamer and brought her cargo on intact.

HARBOUR IMPROVEMENT AT MACAO.

The Harbour Improvement Committee at Macao have presented their report to Sr. Galbardo, the Governor. They recommend an extensive reclamation from the Public Garden to Government House, which if carried out would render that part of the Praia Grande an inland street. From the east of the Praia below San Francisco Fort it is proposed to run out a breakwater and form a bay for anchorage. The scheme no doubt is a good one, but I fear the Lisbon authorities will not sanction the necessary outlay.

Hongkong, 14th August.

THE WEATHER AND AMUSEMENTS.

The first part of the week was most inclement, rain falling the whole of Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday, but it began to clear

on Wednesday, and is now fine and increasingly warm, as the sun's rays make themselves felt again. The rainfall for this month already totals upwards of 22½ inches, so we can afford a dry spell for a change.

The Pollard Lilliputian Opera Troupe have gone and left some of the younger members of the community very dull after a season of amusement they undoubtedly appreciated. The children have carried away many souvenirs of Hongkong and the patrons of the stage, as well as recollections of little kindly attentions by some residents at the Peak. They will return in March next, I hear.

A gymkhana will be held this afternoon at Happy Valley, for which a capital little programme has been arranged, and, for once, the weather promises well.

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF VESSELS ARRIVING IN HONGKONG.

At the meeting of the Sanitary Board, held on the 19th inst., a long discussion ensued on a proposal by Dr. Clark, the Medical Officer of Health, to institute a systematic medical inspection of all vessels arriving in harbour. This proposal had already been submitted to the Chamber of Commerce, and was by it declared to be impracticable. Lengthy papers were laid on the table, including Dr. Clark's criticism of the reply of the Chamber, a long despatch by Dr. Jordan, Health Officer of the Port, in which he sums up by declaring Dr. Clark's suggestions wholly impracticable and could only have been put forward by one quite unacquainted with the ways and means of immigration, emigration, and shipping of the colony generally. He concluded by saying that this colony cannot at present adhere in its entirety to the articles of the Venice Convention, that it is impossible to have a medical inspection of all vessels without a very heavy increase in the cost to Government, and that medical surveillance is impracticable in this colony. After a long discussion the President proposed an amendment of the clauses to Dr. Clark's proposal, to the effect (1) that the medical inspection be carried on as at present, with the addition of an officer of the Harbour Department or Police to be present instead of an officer of Customs (as in England); (2) to appoint Dr. Jordan Assistant Deputy Officer of Health with power to sign bills of health, so as prevent any unnecessary delay; and (3) that the next incumbent of the post of Health Officer of the Port devote the whole of his time to the duties of his office. (The two latter recommendations were made by the Chamber of Commerce). The amendment was seconded by the Capt. Supt. of Police (Hon. F. H. May), and was put to the meeting, when the mover and seconder voted for, and Dr. Clark and the Acting Director of Public works against. The President (Dr. Atkinson) then gave his casting vote in favour of the amendment, which was carried. I understand the great body of the officials disapprove of Dr. Clark's proposals as utopian, in the circumstances of the Colony, and are regarded as most impracticable by the commercial community.

THE GOVERNORSHIP OF HONGKONG.

So far nothing is known definitely concerning Sir William Robinson's successor. His Excellency will leave here next winter, his six years' term expiring in December, but no successor has been named officially. *Truth* says that Sir Henry Blake will be the next Governor, but even Homer nods and *Truth* is not always veracious. Another home paper hints at a military governor being appointed. It would be no promotion for Sir Henry Blake to come here from Jamaica, but he may accept the appointment for all that, just as Sir George Bowen went from Victoria to Mauritius and Hongkong. On the other hand, as this colony grows more and more into a fortress the probability of it being placed under a military governor increases.

ANOTHER NEW ROAD AT THE PEAK.

Sir William Robinson will be known among the road-making Governors of this colony. The Jubilee Road round the island was commenced, the new road to Mount Kellett made, and another road is about to be commenced at the Peak; all during his *régime*. Starting from a point close to Plantation Road Tram Station, the last mentioned road will follow the outlines of the hills for two miles, terminating at Magazine Gap. There will be a drop of some 290 feet in the two miles, so that it will be a magnificent walk near the top of the hills on the northern side overlooking the harbour, affording a long series of splendid views. It is to be fifteen feet wide along its entire length, and will open up some dozen good sites for building. We have two Robinson Roads already, but one is in the city of Victoria and the other at Kowloon, and both commemorate Sir Hercules Robinson. Let us have a third on the heights to perpetuate Sir William Robinson.

THE CASE OF MANSLAUGHTER AT WANCHAI.

The shopkeeper Cheung Ts'at, who in a dispute with a lad named Li Cheung, on the 8th inst. struck him on the side, from the effects of which blow he died soon afterwards; was on the 18th inst. tried at the Supreme Court for manslaughter and convicted. The Chief Justice in passing sentence said that though prisoner had no intention of killing deceased, he was guilty of an unlawful act in striking him; he, however, took into consideration the circumstances and the fact that prisoner pleaded guilty, and only inflicted a sentence of three months' hard labour. The parents of the prisoner, who were present, were greatly affected by his sentence.

RETURN OF THE JUBILEE CONTINGENT.

The P. & O. steamer *Japan*, which arrived here yesterday from England, brought back the Indian and Chinese members of the Police Force, who figured in the Jubilee Celebration in London, as representing the native forces of this Colony. On landing they were marched up to the Central Police Station, and are enjoying two days' rest before resuming duty. They were greatly delighted with what they saw and experienced in England, and would have liked to remain in London always. Their officers report that they behaved admirably throughout. They came out under command of Havildar Lal Singh, who acted as orderly sergeant to Colonel Walker, of Perak, who had charge of the Straits and Hongkong Detachments, and who gave the havildar a flattering testimonial on parting with him at Penang.

HONGKONG HOTEL COMPANY, LD.

The half-yearly meeting of the shareholders in the above company was held this morning at the Hotel. The Chairman (Mr. R. C. Wilcox) was able to supplement the information contained in the report, and to hold out hopes of a further improvement in the business. He announced that the result of the working for July (the working for the first three months of the current half usually share a debit balance) showed a very decided improvement, which the Directors had reason to believe would continue through the half year. He stated, in conclusion, that though the condition of the company had been so far improved that the stock, which some time ago was nominally quoted at \$7 per share, had advanced to par, the Directors would not relax their efforts to promote economy and save waste, and they believed a season of prosperity had now dawned for the Company. The report and accounts were passed unanimously, the other formal business transacted, and the Chairman then had the, to him, novel and pleasing duty of announcing when the dividend warrants would be ready. A vote of thanks to the Directors, proposed by Mr. Ho Fook and seconded by Capt. Goddard, was carried by acclamation.

THE VICEROY OF THE TWO KUANGS.

The Viceroy of the Two Kuangs, who has been impeached by one of the Censors for senility and maladministration, is reported to be in failing health and to be losing his sight. His Excellency went with some of his officials on the 12th inst. to worship the God of War, and it is said that after making his *kotow* to the joss he was too weak to rise, and had to be assisted to his feet. He will probably be relieved of office on the ground of ill health, sometimes a convenient plea, but not always admitted by the Emperor when he thinks the sufferer indispensable.

NAVAL NEWS.

Of movements of men-of-war in this port there are none to record. The man-of-war anchorage continues to wear a deserted aspect. The *Undaunted* is still undergoing alterations, and the *Tumar* is not yet ready to replace the old *Victor Emmanuel* as receiving ship. The cruiser *Powerful*, designed to supersede the *Centurion* as the Vice-Admiral's flagship on this station, will not arrive here for some time yet, but was docked at Portsmouth on the 17th ult., to be completed for service on this station, so I suppose we shall see her here some time in October.

Hongkong, 21st August.

LONDON.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

THE END OF THE CELEBRATIONS.

With the publication of the Queen's letter of thanks to her people the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations may be regarded as really at an end, though I believe a few belated addresses of loyal congratulation have still to be received by the Prince of Wales on behalf of Her Majesty. The Court has removed to Osborne; the Colonial Premiers—what few of them are left in Europe—are disporting themselves in France or Scotland or elsewhere; the Commons are hurrying on with the fag end of their business, and the London season, the most brilliant which has been seen for a decade, is dying fast. There is still a little interest at

WESTMINSTER

as to whether the Lords will seriously tamper with the Employers' Liability Bill; but on the whole Ministers feel pretty confident that the Upper House will not give a handle to its enemies by throwing out, on the score of its Liberality, a measure sent up to them by a Conservative Government. But that they hate the Bill there can be no manner of doubt. The Tory revolt has not assumed alarming proportions so far as voting is concerned, but the Bill has intensified the deep distrust with which the old Tories have never ceased to regard Mr. Chamberlain, whom they not unjustly accuse of having forced upon Lord Salisbury a measure which embodies principles which he has always opposed. The Lords have, however, passed the second reading, and it is not probable that they will insist on altering it very seriously in Committee. Meanwhile they have satisfied themselves with altering the title of the Verminous Persons Bill to the "Cleansing of Persons Bill."

THE JOURNEY TO THE POLE.

We are now anxiously awaiting news of M. Andrée's plucky journey over the Polar Seas by balloon. A few carrier pigeons have been caught with messages which were at first fondly supposed to come from the explorer; but investigation has satisfied most of us that they are the work of practical jokers. The most remarkable thing about this seemingly foolhardy feat is that M. Andrée seems to have succeeded in inspiring most of the scientists, with whom he came into contact, with a belief in the feasibility of his scheme. Some of them object that no good object will be served by the expedition, since all

that Andrée is attempting is to sail over the Pole without setting foot there; but at any rate he will, if he succeeds, probably achieve just as much as any other explorer who makes his way over the surface of the land and water, since scientists have long ago come to the conclusion that from their point of view there is little to be learnt from a visit to the Pole. Still, to be hailed as the first man who ever saw the Pole will doubtless be triumph enough for M. Andrée; and if he should ever again be seen alive he may be sure of a lionising, before which that to which we treated Nansen a few months ago will pale into insignificance.

THE NEW ART GALLERY.

On Wednesday the Prince of Wales formally opened the new Gallery of British Art which Mr. Tate has, with such splendid generosity, erected and partly filled for the nation. There are some complaints that the site—where Milbank Prison formerly stood—is too much out of the way, and that people will never be able to find that new gallery; but after all it is only a few minutes' walk from the Houses of Parliament, and when the embankment has been extended further west, and a good road has been carried through the slummy end of Westminster, the building, which presents a very handsome appearance from across the river, will be accessible enough. Unfortunately whenever old houses disappear in this neighbourhood they are superseded by huge hideous, barrack-like "mansions" or flats. They may be comfortable enough inside, but it will require all the influence of the works of art which Mr. Tate has given us to counteract the degrading and depressing effect of these horrible streets of "sky-scrapers." Mr. Tate's pictures have already been hung in their places, and so have all the works of modern British art which have been bought in recent years under the Chantrey Bequest. What with the new National Portrait Gallery, the Wallace Bequest (which has yet to be housed), the Tate Gallery, and the splendid additions which have been made in recent years to the old National Gallery, not to mention the handful of good pictures which are still to be seen at South Kensington, we shall soon have a collection of public galleries of which no capital in the world need be ashamed.

THE BISLEY MEETING.

We are nearing the end of the second week of the Bisley meeting; and what with the presence of the big colonial contingent and the splendid capabilities of the Lee-Metford rifle, it has been the most exciting and most enjoyable meeting which has ever been held either at Wimbledon or Bisley. The colonials have carried off a goodly store of prizes, apart from those which were offered specially for competition among themselves; but in the second stage of the Queen's, the eighth place was the highest to which any one of them could reach, this being achieved by Corporal Kerr of Canada. The struggle for the silver medal proved splendidly exciting, the shooting of the winner—Armourer-Sergeant Scott, of the Border Rifles—having attracted considerable attention from the very first. Early in the competition he had headed the whole list with 69 out of a possible 70 at the first two ranges, and dropping two points only at the next range he tied for the bronze medal. Unfortunately in shooting off the tie he lost it. But when at 500 yards in the second stage he put on nine successive bull's eyes and an inner, the hopes of the Scotsmen ran high. At the six hundred he began not quite so well. Like most of the Scotsmen he fires with great deliberation: and so it chanced that when he had six more shots to fire the onlookers knew that he must not drop more than a single point if he was to beat Private Ward of the 1st Devon,

who had put together the remarkable score of 218, and Scott just did it, making five bull's eyes and an inner. His score of 219 beats the previous best by no less than eleven points. In fact, while 208 was the highest hitherto made for the Silver Medal, this year 206 is barely enough to scrape into the even hundred which will shoot for the Queen's Prize at the third stage to-morrow.

CRICKET.

As the end of the cricket season begins to come into sight interest in the County Championship grows apace. Under the new rule the Champion county is the county which wins the largest proportion of its finished games. The play between some four or five counties has been wonderfully even, and there is every hope that the interest will be sustained quite up to the end. Unfortunately there is no system which will ensure victory to the best team. Under the new system Notts heads the list, though Notts has won only two games, while Yorkshire and Surrey have each won nine. But Notts has not encountered a single defeat. By a singular chapter of fortune it has had a long succession of drawn games; and it is very likely to have another in the game with Gloucester which finishes to-morrow. A single defeat will, however, be sufficient to reduce Notts from the first to the fifth place, and Yorkshire and Lancashire will be left close together at the top, with Essex, Surrey and Notts close behind them. "W. G." who did not begin the season particularly well, has been gradually pulling up, and with another century to-day against Notts he promises to make a good show once more.

OBITUARY.

The news of the sudden illness death of Mr. Mundella has been received with real sorrow on both sides of the House, where he was very popular. An Italian by descent, with a good deal of Jewish blood in his veins, he was in spirit a thorough Englishman. He was in a measure a self-made man. The circumstances in which he had to resign the Presidency of the Board of Trade, a few years ago, in consequence of his connection with a loosely managed joint-stock company, cut him very deeply; and seeing that a fellow director was given office a few months later in Lord Salisbury's Government he certainly seems to have been a little hardly dealt with. Literature, too, has sustained a heavy loss in the death of Jean Ingelow, the aged poetess.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

AN EXCEPTIONAL SUMMER.

Long will this jubilee summer be remembered as one of exceptional fineness, so far as weather is concerned. Since last I wrote we have had little else but continuous heat and brilliant sunshine; so hot has it been that even the Orientals have found it difficult to believe that they are not in their native land, and seem to think that the heat must have been imported for the occasion. I have heard that the Indians say that they will have to go home to get cool if it goes on much longer. In reality it has been perfectly lovely. Day after day one can don one's coolest garments without fear of taking cold, which is quite unusual in England.

HENLEY AND THE RIVER.

All three days at Henley passed by without a spot of rain: it was quite an ideal Henley this year, as far as the elements were concerned. The racing I did not think so good as usual, but the function—as a function—was perfect. The house boats looked if possible smarter than ever. I heard that geraniums were at a premium the day before the regatta, and were only obtainable at famine prices, but however that may be they were there by the hun-

dred, and all kinds of other flowers too. The whole course looked like fairyland, especially on Friday night when all the house-boats were illuminated with hundreds of fairy lights, which added vastly to the picturesqueness of the scene. The fireworks were very good, better than usual, I think; the attendance was, however, not up to the record by any means; boats were easily obtainable for ten shillings a day, whereas two years ago one had to pay two pounds for quite a small one. I suppose people spent so much money last month that now retrenchment has to be the order of the day. Also, many people are leaving town earlier than usual. London has been so overcrowded that I think people have pinned to get away, though it really seems absurd to take so much trouble to go a long distance, when by an hour's journey in the train, one can get into such lovely country, and I can imagine nothing much more lovely than our river—so aptly termed London's playground—looks just now. I spent a few days lately near Maidenhead, and lived all day on the water. Although in town the Parks are beginning to look brown for want of a little rain, there everything looks green and fresh, and the lovely Cliveden woods are looking their best. I should think Mr. Astor must be very proud of his new English possession. I could not help wondering how the Duke of Westminster could bear to part with such a lovely home: most people could desire nothing better—a stately house in lovely scenery—but when he owned it he rarely used it, so I suppose he does not regret it now. Whilst summer lasts nothing can be more lovely than the river, but, of course, in the winter it is damp and not so pleasant.

SANDOWN

was very well patronised last week. All the *élite* of London put in an appearance dressed in their best. White serge was in favour, and shady hats of Leghorn and crinoline, were much worn, trimmed with roses that looked wonderfully real and lovely. The Prince and Princess were there one day, the Princess looking lovely as usual, and almost younger than her daughter. One wonders will she ever grow old. I think not. Certainly this season she has looked better than for many years, and has shown more interest in all that goes on than she has done latterly. For some time after the sad death of the Duke of Clarence, she seemed so frail that one feared she might not rally from the shock, but the advent of three small grandchildren, to whom she is said to be devoted, has helped to soften the sad blow, and we hope that for many years our Princess may still be, as she undoubtedly is now, the youngest looking grandmother in England.

THE EARL'S COURT EXHIBITION

is still in full swing and is a great success. The Womens' Industries come in for a full share of approval, especially the nursing branch, which shows the wonderful strides that have been made in nursing during the present reign. But I must confess to my mind one of the most charming parts of the exhibition is the "Old Welcome Club" in the grounds, where one can dine either in the open air or in a charming dining room, and afterwards sit and listen to one of the best bands in England, while seated in a most luxurious wicker chair. I see that Prince and Princess Christian dined there a few nights ago, so I suppose now it will be more popular than ever. It is a pity there are not more clubs of this kind in London, but then of course one wants almost tropical weather to enjoy them, and such weather as we have had for the past two months does not often fall to the lot of Londoners—perhaps that is why we enjoy it so much.

THE JUBILEE ENTERTAINMENT

in honour of the Victorian Era of Women; at the Grafton galleries, on the 14th was a

great success. There were a hundred women present, each one of whom brought a distinguished man—or, at any rate, one whom she considered was entitled to be considered distinguished. The dinner was good, and was served at numerous small tables, so that practically one could make one's party beforehand. Mrs. Steel, the clever authoress of *On the Face of the Waters*, acted as Hon. Secretary and admirably she performed her duties. Dinner was served in the basement of the galleries; the decorations were charming, the bases of all the pillars being swathed with roses, while *portières*, fastened back with chains of roses, were fixed over the entrances. The music, which was contributed by Miss Ada Crossley, Mrs. Helen Trust and others, was excellent, and the speeches were quite above the average. There were only two toasts, "The Queen," given by Mrs. Steel in an admirable speech, and "Our Guests" by Lady Henry Somerset. Both ladies are lucky in possessing sweet low voices, perfectly clear and penetrating, so that every word they uttered could be distinctly heard all over the room. The Bishop of London replied for the guests and compared himself rather quaintly to the Queen of Sheba, who after seeing all King Solomon had to show had "no more heart in her," and professed himself unable to compete with the eloquence which he had so enjoyed. Nevertheless, he spoke with a rare sense of humour, and declared that he (and others) might years hence be consoled for many vicissitudes and sorrows by the thought that one night one woman had considered him "distinguished." Madame Réjane attracted a great deal of attention, as also did Miss Ellen Terry, the rival *Madame Sans Gêne*, who were among the hostesses. Lady Randolph Churchill looked charming, so did Lady Jeune. Lady Battersea was entertaining Mr. Anthony Hope, and at the same table sat Miss Alma Tadema and Mr. Thomas Hardy. Altogether the ladies' dinner was a distinct success, and like many other new departures of women will bear repetition.

THE THEATRES.

I was present at the first night of the *Silver Key* at Her Majesty's on the 10th inst. and was glad to see that Mr. Tree had a great reception and was amply repaid for what must have been rather a risky enterprise so late in the season. However, "nothing succeeds like success," and during the last few days the booking has been phenomenal. For some weeks to come all the principal seats in the house are taken, so I trust Mr. Tree will have no cause to regret his experiment. The comedy is taken from a play of Dumas, *Mdlle. de Belle Isle*, and has been adapted and altered to suit the exigencies of a London audience by Sydney Grundy, who likewise did the same for *A Marriage of Convenience*, another play of Dumas' now running at the Haymarket with much success. In the *Silver Key* Mr. Tree appears as the profligate Duc de Richelieu, and wears a very fine uniform which suits him splendidly. Mrs. Tree, who is most marvellously gowned, is most fascinating as the fair but frail Marquise de Prie. Miss Evelyn Millard has a part that entirely suits her in *Mdlle. de Belle Isle*, and Mr. Lewis Waller is delightful as the Chevalier d'Aubigny, a part that suits him far better than Lucio in the *Sorrows of Satan*. The scenery is perfect, and the furniture in the boudoir of the Marquise, which serves for three out of four acts of the play, is so charming that one only regrets it is not one's own.

SIR S. BANCROFT.

People are asking why Mr. Bancroft received the honour of knighthood and every one replies because he has done so much to help to raise the tone of the stage. He has produced only the very best plays, and has employed to the utmost the best talent he could get. Mrs. Bancroft has

loyally supported her husband, and in all cases of distress they are invariably among the first to come forward with offers of help. When Lord Salisbury conferred the honour on Mr. Bancroft, he wrote personally a most kind and appreciative letter, saying what pleasure it gave him to be able to recognise his merit. The honour and the letter took the recipient by complete surprise, but I think many who know the real goodness of the man, who has constantly journeyed more than a hundred miles, to give a reading in aid of some charity or to the poor patients in some hospital or convalescent home, feel that many knight-hoods have been less well-earned than this one.

JEAN INGELOW.

The death of Miss Jean Ingelow, which occurred last Tuesday, removes one who may be said to have lived beyond her day, for as a poet she had almost ceased to live for many years, her last poems having been published nearly a quarter of a century ago. But a few of her writings, notably *When Sparrows Build*, will always live with us for who can forget the lines—

"Oh my lost love and my own, own love,

And my love that loved me so."

especially when one couples them with the delightful music to which they are set by Virginia Gabriel. It would be vain to pretend that Miss Ingelow will leave much mark on English poetry, but she had fine qualities and made many friends among whom she will long be truly mourned.

J. K.

23rd July.

Meetings.

THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

At a meeting of the Council held in the Board Room, No. 23, Kiangsue Road, Shanghai, on Tuesday, the 17th of August, 1897, at 4.30 p.m.

Present:—Messrs. A. R. Burkill (Chairman), J. S. Fearon, E. A. Hewett, the Rev. J. R. Hykes, Messrs. J. Prentice, M. Rohde, J. Welch, H. P. Wilkinson, and the Acting Secretary.

The *Summons* calling the meeting is taken as read.

The *Minutes* of last meeting are read, confirmed, signed by the Chairman, and passed for publication.

Cash Statement for the past week is submitted, and cheques for sundry accounts are signed.

Return of Prisoners apprehended and police daily reports for the past week are submitted.

Sanitary Department.—Report by the Health Officer, and Municipal Surgeon, for July is submitted.

Electric Department.—Report by the Superintendent is submitted, giving particulars of the works completed during July, and of those still in progress.

Road Extension.—The following correspondence is ordered to be published:—

The Laon Kung Mow Cotton Spinning and Weaving Company, Limited.

Shanghai, 19th April, 1897.

SIR,—With reference to the proposal which has been made to this Company by the Municipal Surveyor that the Company should surrender to the Council the private road running through B.C. Lots 1911 and 1922 Yangtzepoo Road, we beg to enclose for your information a plan showing both the road in question and the land (coloured yellow) with which we are concerned and to offer the following remarks on the proposal.

The present width of the road averages about 20 feet, and we understand that, if acquired by the Council, it is proposed to increase the width to 30 feet; this increase

of width would seriously interfere with any projected building on the narrow strip marked A on the plan. Consequently in surrendering the road the Company would require to be compensated not only for the extra width to be taken from the Company's ground, but for damage done to the strip A; the value of the land we put at Tls. 1,300 per *mo*, and the damage to strip A might be assessed by mutual agreement.

We are authorised, however, to submit to you the following counter-proposition, that a straight road be made from the Yangtzepoo road to the creek at the north, the Council acquiring the small amount of land (about 2,000 square feet) which would be necessary for the purpose, and transferring to the Company that portion of the so acquired land lying between the road and the Company's western boundary, in compensation for land taken and damage done, in widening the remainder of the road.

We are, Sir,

Your obedient servants,

ILBERT & Co.,
General Managers.

The Secretary,
Shanghai Municipal Council.

Municipal Council,

Shanghai, 19th May, 1897.

GENTLEMEN,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th ultimo, in which you state the conditions under which you are prepared to surrender for public use the private road running through B.C. Lots 1911 and 1922, Yangtzepoo Road. The proposals submitted by you were carefully considered at a meeting of the Works Committee on the 7th instant.

I am now instructed to say that the Committee is of opinion that as the making-up, lighting, and policing of the proposed road would entail a considerable outlay, and as such work must materially benefit the adjoining property, the land required should be surrendered free. With regard to your proposal that the Council should acquire and transfer to your Company a small piece of land to the north of Lot 1911, I am to point out that when any land, at present unregistered, is hereafter rented to a foreigner, such portions of it as are required for public uses naturally revert to the community, under the terms of the Regulations, and in accordance with the Plan of proposed Road Extensions notified to the public and exhibited at the Consulates in October, 1894. Under these circumstances it is not advisable, in the opinion of the Committee, to purchase from native holders land which is likely to be eventually surrendered *gratis*.

Trusting that your Company may favourably consider the subject, with regard to the free surrender of the land required,

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. O. P. BLAND,

Acting Secretary.

To Messrs. ILBERT & Co.,

Managers,

Laon Kung Mow Cotton Mill Co., Ltd.,
Shanghai.

The Laon Kung Mow Cotton Spinning and Weaving Company, Limited.

Shanghai, 15th June, 1897.

SIR,—We beg to hand you herewith two plans of Lots 1,911 and 1,922, Yangtzepoo Road, Hongkew. Plan No. 1 shows the original arrangement for building China houses on this property, and the ground marked A containing 0.468 *mo* was specially purchased for the purpose of diverting the present private road as shown.

Plan No. 2 shows in red the portion of our property which could be surrendered for making a 30ft. road, with the least possible detriment to the remainder, but even this will reduce the number of our Chinese houses by 21 and as the lots marked A and B are quite unsuitable for building purposes, the area of ground required for the road would practically be 4½ *mo*, viz. 3.102 *mo* coloured red, 0.468 *mo* marked A, and 0.889 marked B.

We are willing to surrender our interests in the portion coloured red, for the sum of Sh. Tls. 3,000, on the condition that the Council make the new road as soon as possible, and do not block our access to Lot 1,911 during or after its construction. And our Landlords

are also willing to surrender their rights on this road free of any further charge, thus giving the Council a title to the ground equivalent to that which they would have if they had acquired it directly from the Chinese owners.

We would ask for the favour of an answer at the earliest possible date, as we are waiting for a settlement of the matter in order to permit of our letting out our building contracts.

We are, Sir,

Your obedient servants,
ILBERT & Co.,
General Managers.

The Secretary, Municipal Council.

Municipal Council,

Shanghai, 5th July, 1897.

GENTLEMEN,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 15th ult., stating the terms upon which you are willing to surrender the land for a 30-ft. road through Lots 1911 and 1922. The Council, after careful consideration of the matter, is unable to accede to those terms.

I am now instructed to say that the Council is prepared to make up the proposed road, on the lines proposed in your plan No. 2, provided that the land required be surrendered, free of cost, and that the 3-ft. strip to the west of the road be not reserved by your Company. The Council is unable to meet your request for a payment of Tls. 3,000 for the proposed surrender, on the following grounds:—

- 1.—That a sum of Tls. 8,000 will be required to make up the proposed road;
- 2.—That the cost of scavenging and lighting the road will be considerable, and that for some years to come such expenditure is not likely to benefit anyone but your Company;
- 3.—That your Company's property cannot fail to be materially improved by the proposed public works; and
- 4.—That the land for other roads recently made in the same neighbourhood was surrendered, free of cost, i.e., the Wetmore and Janssen Roads.

For the above reasons the Council cannot agree to make the payment you ask, and I am to express the hope that, on reconsideration of the conditions of the case, you will see your way to meeting the Council in this matter. Should you be unable to do so, the Council will have no alternative but to seek for a line of road in some other direction.

I am, gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,
J. O. P. BLAND,
Acting Secretary.

To Messrs. ILBERT & Co.,

General Managers,
Laou Kung Mow Cotton Mill.

The Laou Kung Mow Cotton Spinning and Weaving Company, Limited.

Shanghai, 19th July, 1897.

DEAR SIR,—We have to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 5th inst. in which you state the terms upon which the Council is willing to make the proposed road through Lots 1,911 and 1,922.

A road sufficiently good to serve the Company's purposes can be made for about one-third of the cost estimated and that it would be the private property of the Company.

The cost of scavenging and lighting would be more than recouped by allowing the adjoining landowners to use the road.

There does not seem to be any particular reason why this Company should be called upon to surrender land, which costs them Tls. 300 per annum, in the public interest, when other Companies are handomely compensated.

We, however, have re-considered the matter and are now prepared to surrender the land free of cost, on condition that the road be made in accordance with the enclosed plan, which leaves a strip of our land 3 feet wide on the south-east side of the road.

And further to agree that any of the adjoining proprietors who will pay us half the cost of the land surrendered—for such portion as may be opposite their property—will have free access to the road.

We are, Sir,

Yours faithfully,
ILBERT & Co.,
General Managers.

The Secretary,

Shanghai Municipal Council.

Municipal Council,
Shanghai, 21st July, 1897.

GENTLEMEN,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 19th instant. In reply I am instructed to say that, while unable to agree to the terms under which you are prepared to surrender the land for a road through Lots 1,911 and 1,922, as regards leaving a strip of land for the use of your company on the south-east side of the road—the Council is prepared to pay to you the sum of Shanghai Taels five hundred (Sh. Tls. 500) as compensation for the said strip, provided that the road itself be surrendered free of cost.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,
J. O. P. BLAND,
Acting Secretary.

To Messrs. ILBERT & Co.,

General Managers,
Laou Kung-mow Cotton Mill, Shanghai.

Shanghai, 28th July.

SIR,—We have to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 21st instant in which you offer us Tls. 500 as compensation for the strip of land on the south-east side of the road which we proposed to surrender to the Council free of cost.

It appears to us that the Council are placing the adjoining owners in a favourable position by giving them advantage of the road, free of all cost, while it asks us to surrender free over 3½ mow worth Tls. 2,900 per mow.

We would call your attention to the fact that there is another strip of land to the south-east of the land, similarly situated to the strip which the Council offer to buy for Tls. 500; this second strip measures about 1,320 square feet, as compared with 630 feet in the front strip; at a similar rate it would cost about Tls. 1,000.

We shall be glad to know whether the Council wish to acquire the strip at the back or not.

We remain, Sir,

Your obedient servants,
ILBERT & Co.

J. O. P. BLAND, Esq.,

Acting Secretary, Municipal Council.

Municipal Council,

Shanghai, 10th August, 1897.

Proposed road through B.C. Lots 1911 and 1922.

GENTLEMEN,—In reply to your letter of 28th ult., I am directed to inform you that, after due consideration, the Council is unable to make any change in the terms of its letter of the 21st July, which the Council trusts you will see your way to accept.

I am further directed to state that the Council does not wish to acquire the additional strip of land to which you refer, measuring 1,320 square feet, for the sum of about Tls. 1,000.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,
J. O. P. BLAND,
Acting Secretary.

Messrs. ILBERT & Co.,

General Managers,
Laou Kung-mow Cotton Mill, Shanghai.

The Laou Kung Mow Cotton Spinning and Weaving Company, Limited.

Shanghai, 14th August 1897.

Proposed Road through B.C. Lots 1911 & 1922.

SIR—We are in receipt of your letter of 16th instant, informing us that the Council is not prepared to make any change in the terms of its letter of 21st ultimo as to the acquisition by it of the above proposed road.

In reply we beg to say that we are prepared to surrender the road on the Council's terms, but in doing so we wish it to be understood that we do not in any way withdraw any of the contentions which we have put forward in this correspondence; our acceptance of the Council's terms is solely because we do not wish to appear to be standing in the way of the Council's scheme for road extensions in the Settlements.

We are, Sir,

Yours obedient servants,
ILBERT & Co.,
General Managers.

The Secretary,

Shanghai Municipal Council.

Shanghai, 14th August, 1897.

Proposed road through B.C. Lots 1911 & 1922.

GENTLEMEN,—I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your letter of this date in which you agree to surrender the above road on the terms named in the Council's letter of the 21st of July.

Enclosed please find compadore order for five hundred taels (Tls. 500) the amount payable to you as agreed.

I am desired to thank you for your action in this matter.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,
J. O. P. BLAND,
Acting Secretary.

Messrs. ILBERT & Co.,

General Managers,
Laou-Kung-Mow Cotton S. & W. Co.,
Shanghai.

General Municipal Rate—Foreign.—The following return for March quarter is submitted, and ordered to be published:—

SUMMARY OF GENERAL MUNICIPAL RATE FOREIGN.
June Quarter, 1897.

	No. of Houses	Rental Assessment	No. of Houses	Rental Assessment	Increase Houses	Increase Assessment
	1896	1896	1897	1897	1897	1897
English Settlement	467	Tls. 468,365	476	Tls. 534,459	9	66,094
Hongkew Settlement	567	256,815	647	322,028	80	65,700
Total	1,034	725,210	1,123	857,037	89	131,794
Occupied by Foreigners	940	..	1,063	..	63	..
Occupied by Natives	109	..	113	..	4	..
Unoccupied	15	..	7	..	*8	..
Total Assessment	..	725,210	..	857,037	..	131,794
Tax Colld.	..	14,117	..	16,731	..	2,614

* Decrease.

Markets, Sale of Game.—The following reports by the Inspector of Markets are ordered to be published:—

Shanghai, 23rd August, 1897.

SIR,—In obedience to your request to send in a report concerning the sale of game in the Hongkew Market, about which Mr. .., whose letter you enclosed, complains I beg to state that neither game or wild fowl etc. have been exposed openly for sale either in any of the markets or the game shops over which my assistant and I exercise supervision.

The markets are visited twice every morning by one of us, and if any game out of season had been exposed for sale, it would certainly have been observed, seized, and the dealer prosecuted.

Mr. .. says that "he has heard of the same sort of thing from other sources" and such I do not doubt after seeing Mr. H. T. Wade's letter in the *Daily News* on Saturday, 21st inst. In his letter he says that under the guise of "Shantung chicken" and even under its own name, this appetising delicacy has appeared on menus at tables where he was a guest.

I regret that Mr. Wade did not inform the Inspectors first before he wrote to the Press, for, if he had done so and enlightened us where game could be purchased, I have no hesitation in saying, that if such was the case within the circuit of Municipal control, the offending dealer would have been prosecuted.

During last week all the game shops were visited, some of them twice, but no game was found on the premises and we are of opinion that those dealers, who carry on this illegal trade, keep their game in places outside our jurisdiction.

I am in full sympathy with Mr. Wade when he says that, "were there no demand for the illicit luxury there would be no supply; unfortunately there are both." To explain this, dealers inform us that a few pheasants come from Chinese at Pootung and Woosung to their boy friends in the Settlement, and no later than Sabbath morning, the 22nd inst., Mr. Gale was fortunate in seizing a young cock-rei, which had been newly handed from a Sicawei coolie to a Pakhoi Road market dealer, named Han Shing, and who will be prosecuted on Tuesday, the 24th instant, at the Mixed Court.

It has come to my knowledge and I believe it to be a fact, that private persons going into the reaches of the river in houseboats, etc., and who land are sure before being

long on shore to have a Chinese offering pheasants and other game for sale. When this is the case, it is no wonder that pheasant appears on the menu of those who like the illicit luxury.

I know nothing of the energy of the French Consul in the matter; but I unhesitatingly deny that game is sold openly in the Settlement, neither could it be, without my speedily knowing it.

Mr. ———'s letter returned herewith.
I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
JOHN CHRISTIE,
Inspector of Markets, etc.

To J. A. POND, Esq.,
For Acting Secretary, Municipal Council.

Shanghai, 24th August, 1897.

SIR,—In addition to the report regarding the sale of pheasants, game, etc., in the markets, which I forwarded to you this morning, I beg to add the following:—First, the dealer Han Shing, 334/6 Pakhoi Road, in whose premises a cockerel was found on Sunday morning last, was to-day at the Mixed Court fined \$10.00 (Ten dollars) for his offence.

Second. In to-day's *Daily News* there is a paragraph saying that roast pheasant appeared as one of the items on the menu at Sweetmeat Castle yesterday. I made enquiries to-day at Sweetmeat Castle regarding this paragraph and found that such had been the case, but that the pheasants were purchased in the French Concession and not in the Shanghai Municipal Council's jurisdiction. Further, I believe, it is only when the dish is asked for that it is procured.

Third.—I think, seeing that this subject has caused some interest to be taken by the public, as well as sportsmen, that it would be well to let them know the whole facts, as I know them.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
JOHN CHRISTIE,
Inspector of Markets, etc.

J. A. POND, Esq.,
For Acting Secretary, Municipal Council.
The Meeting then adjourned.

The following reports are submitted and ordered to be published with the foregoing minutes:—

Police.—Return of apprehensions, etc., made by the Municipal Police during the week ending the 21st day of August, 1897:—

Offences.	No. of apprehensions.
Breach of Municipal Regulations	42
Burglary	2
Cruelty to Animals	7
Cutting and Wounding	2
Furious riding or driving	7
Gambling	4
Larceny from dwellings, etc.	57
Miscellaneous cases	394
Ricsha Licenses suspended	553
" confiscated	2
Wheelbarrow " suspended	24
Beggars, Hawkers and Ragpickers	298

Total number of persons coming under the notice of Police 1 392
Chinese dead bodies found in streets.. 2
Stray dogs captured 98.

DONALD MACKENZIE,
Captain Superintendent, S.M.P.

Native Dairies.—Weekly Report.

The native dairies, containing 504 head of cattle, have all been visited during the past week.

Rinderpest broke out in another dairy, on the 17th inst, by the name of Mo Hang-sing, Lee Hongkew.

From this dairy two native cows were sent to their country owner, one young English heifer was sent to the Ningpo Joss House, and twelve head were sent to Pak Sein-jah, of which 10 have since died. The dairyman has promised to thoroughly disinfect his premises.

JOHN CHRISTIE,
Inspector.

Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Council held in the Municipal Board Room on Thursday, the 26th August, at 5 o'clock p.m.

Present:—Messrs. A. R. Burkill (Chairman), J. S. Fearon (Vice-Chairman), E. A. Hewett, Rev. Dr. Hykes, J. Prentice, M. Rohde, J. Welch, and H. P. Wilkinson.

The following communication to the Council is ordered to be published:—

In view of the call for a Meeting of the Ratepayers for the 7th proximo, and in consideration that those of my colleagues who differ from me in the matter of the Health Officer do not propose to file with the Council records the reasons for such difference, I therefore withdraw the paper filed by me at the last meeting of the Council, in which I gave the reasons for my opinion in the matter; but I do not withdraw my protest to the vote of the majority of the Council, nor do I recede from the position I have taken and the reasons I have given therefor. And I give notice that hereafter I will, if I deem it desirable, file the reasons for my protest.

As the Council has intimated its purpose to attend the meeting of the Ratepayers, it will then be in order, I suppose, for any member who desires to address the meeting on relevant subjects.

I also file this paper to be considered a part of the records of this meeting and to be published with the Minutes of the same.

JOHN R. HYKES,
Councillor.

Shanghai, 26th August, 1897.

Resolved: That Dr. J. Taylor Grant's letters to the Council of 21st July, and Council's reply of 22nd July, be republished:—

Shanghai Municipal Council,
Health Department,
16, Hankow Road,
Shanghai, 21st July, 1897.

SIR,—I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter of yesterday's date conveying to me the finding of the Special Committee which recently called upon me to explain my action in regard to certain "Bills of Health" fees.

As this is a matter that affects my personal character I shall thank you to agree to waive any claim to arbitrate, on the condition that I take the matter into open Court of Justice, that it and any other matters that have arisen may be cleared up.

I have written to the same effect to Drs. Henderson, Macleod, and Milles, and I will thank you to let me have a reply to this letter in writing.

Yours faithfully,
J. TAYLOR GRANT,

Municipal Surgeon and Health Officer.
J. O. P. BLAND, Esq.,
Acting Secretary,
Shanghai Municipal Council.

Municipal Council,
Shanghai, 22nd July, 1897.

SIR,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday, and in reply, to say that the Council has no such claim as that which you request it to waive.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
J. O. P. BLAND,
Acting Secretary.

To Dr. J. TAYLOR GRANT,
Shanghai.

"The Health and Vigour of an individual depend upon the quantity and quality of the blood. (When the tissues have been at work, there are thrown into the blood waste products, and if these be not eliminated but (through any cause) detained in the blood they influence nutrition and function and finally produce organic disease."—*The Humanitarian*. In cases of Scrofula, Scurvy, Eczema, Bad Legs, Skin and Blood Diseases, Pimples and Sores of all kinds, the effects of Clarke's Blood Mixture are marvellous. Thousands of wonderful cures have been effected by it. Clarke's Blood Mixture is sold everywhere, at 2s. 9d. per bottle. Beware of worthless imitations and substitutes.

Amusements.

CRICKET.

SHANGHAI CRICKET CLUB.

S.C.C. v. SHANGHAI RACE CLUB.

The return match between the Cricket Club and the Race Club, like its predecessor, had to be left drawn, time not permitting of its being fought out to a definite issue. A start was not made until a little after four o'clock, on account of the hot weather; and for the loss of eight wickets the Race Club put together 100, when the innings was declared closed. There was nothing calling for special note in the individual scores. The Cricket Club began very promisingly, Thomas and Hynd not being separated until 60 had been put together, Hynd being responsible for a well played 33. Soon after stumps were drawn, Thomas being not-out 33, and McClure not-out 4.

Full score and analysis:—

SHANGHAI RACE CLUB.

R. C. Farbridge, (Capt.)	e. Hynd, b. Stabb	11
W. Bates, b. Cumming		1
H. F. Bell, b. Cumming		13
E. M. Cooper, b. Thomas		26
S. L. Darby, b. Stabb		0
W. B. Cheetham, b. Cumming		15
S. Reynell, c. Hynd, b. Stabb		11
H. Campbell, not-out		14
T. Chisholm, b. Stabb		2
E. des Vaux, not-out		3
Byes		4

100

E. V. D. Parr did not bat.

S.C.C.

A. F. Thomas, not-out		23
R. R. Hynd, c. Farbridge, b. Bates		33
A. J. McClure, (Capt.) not-out		4
Byes		4

64

C. Biron, N. J. Stabb, C. G. Close, A. R. Leake, G. E. Stewart, P. Byrne, Holloway, and E. O. Cumming did not bat.

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

SHANGHAI RACE CLUB.

	Overs.	Mdns.	Runs.	Wkts.
Cumming	13	2	32	3
McClure	6	0	15	0
Stabb	12	3	24	4
Hynd	4	1	17	0
Thomas	4	0	8	1

S.C.C.

	Overs.	Mdns.	Runs.	Wkts.
Darby	9	2	18	0
Farbridge	4	0	24	0
Cheetham	3	0	18	0
Bates	2	2	0	1

SHANGHAI RECREATION CLUB.

S.R.C. v. SHANGHAI BOWLING CLUB.

The above match, which was played on Saturday, resulted in another easy win for the Recreation Club. A start was not made until 4 o'clock, when T. Wallace and H. Veitch went to the wickets to face the bowling of Murray and Reith. Neither Veitch or Möller who succeeded him, was in form, both being bowled off their pads, the former by Murray for 1 and the latter by Reith for 0. Jackson, who made his first appearance on the ground this season, then joined Wallace, both batsmen punishing the bowling severely, 60 being posted on the board just before half-past four. With the score at 66: Jackson was cleverly caught at square leg by Shaw off Murray, for a hard hit 32. Griffin who succeeded, made 8 when he was smartly taken at the wickets by Macgregor off Cornish, and his place was taken by S. M. Wallace. The hundred was reached at five o'clock, exactly an hour after play commenced. With the score at 124 Sawyer took up the bowling, and T. Wallace, in

attempting to take liberties with a bowler still unknown to fame, was clean bowled by him in his first over. Wallace had played sound cricket for 62 having given but one difficult chance to Sawyer at square leg, off Coutts. T. Veitch filled the vacancy, but fell a victim to the same bowler before scoring. At half time the S.R.C. with 6 wickets down for 129 declared their innings closed. S. M. Wallace being not-out 16.

At 5.30 the home team commenced their task of disposing of their opponents during the short time that remained for play, and thanks to the really excellent bowling of Jackson, T. Wallace, Möller and Griffin, the desired result was obtained three minutes before the time agreed upon for drawing stumps. Jackson's analysis at time read 4 overs, no runs, and 2 wickets; Fifth for 0 and Coutts for 1. Only one batsman obtained doubled figures, Reith playing excellent cricket for 16. The total score of the Bowling Club was 60 and included 12 byes.

Perhaps the most interesting occurrence during the afternoon was the difficult one hand catch by S. M. Wallace in the long field, which disposed of Shaw; the fieldman receiving an ovation from the spectators.

Full score and analysis are as follows:—

S.R.C.

H. Veitch, b. Murray	1
T. Wallace, b. Sawyer	62
N. E. Möller, b. Reith	0
W. H. Jackson, c. Shaw, b. Murray	32
F. Griffin, c. Macgregor, b. Cornish	8
S. Wallace, not-out	16
T. Veitch, c. and b. Sawyer	0
Byes 6; w. 2; l-b. 2	10
	129

F. C. Goodall, J. Gregory, J. Naylor and E. When did not bat.

SHANGHAI BOWLING CLUB.

R. Macgregor, run-out	3
E. Gumpert, b. Möller	5
G. D. Coutts, b. Jackson	1
C. M. Firth, b. Jackson	0
A. M. Reith, b. T. Wallace	16
F. H. Sawyer, c. S. Wallace, b. Möller	8
W. C. Murray, b. Möller	8
N. E. Cornish, not-out	7
G. A. Matthews, c. Jackson, b. Griffin	8
C. R. Shaw, c. S. Wallace, b. T. Wallace	0
W. E. Leveson, b. S. Wallace	0
Byes 8; l-b. 4	12
	60

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

S.R.C.

	Overs.	Mdns.	Runs.	Wkts.
Reith	5	0	21	1
Murray	10	1	41	2
Coutts	7	0	26	0
Cornish	3	0	10	1
Firth	4	1	13	0
Sawyer	2.2	0	8	2

SHANGHAI BOWLING CLUB.

	Overs.	Mdns.	Runs.	Wkts.
Jackson	8	4	19	2
Naylor	3	0	9	0
Möller	7	2	12	3
T. Wallace	5	3	8	3
Griffin	2	2	0	1

S.P.S.A.C. v. MESSRS. BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE.

On the Public Recreation Ground on Saturday an interesting, if somewhat one-sided match, was played between elevens representing the Public School Athletic Club and Taikoo. The latter began the batting, and were got rid of for a total of 83. The Public School then went in, and after losing four wickets for 18, thanks to some vigorous play of Goodfellow, the score was carried to 66 before the next wicket fell. Without losing another batsman the match was won, Goodfellow having played in very spirited fashion: for 31, whilst A. E. Stewart carried out his bat for an invaluable 41.

Score and analysis:—

TAIKOO.

P. Kynnett, b. O. V. Lanning	3
J. S. Lamplough, b. A. E. Stewart	8
J. Buchanan, l-b-w, b. V. H. Lanning	22
E. W. Sharples, c. O. V. Lanning, b. Goodfellow	9
H. E. Shadgett, b. V. H. Lanning	5
H. C. Pearce, c. G. F. Lanning, b. Gutierrez	20
A. G. Palmer, b. Gutierrez	12
R. D. Watt, c. White, b. G. F. Lanning	0
J. Hall, c. A. E. Lanning, b. G. F. Lanning	0
R. Phillips, b. Gutierrez	0
C. Birt, not-out	0
Byes 8; l-b. 1; w-b. 1	10
	89

S.P.S.A.C.

O. V. Lanning, b. Sharples	0
A. E. Lanning, b. Sharples	4
G. F. Lanning, l-b-w, b. Buchanan	8
A. E. Stewart, not-out	41
H. A. Stewart, b. Buchanan	1
H. S. Goodfellow, c. Lamplough, b. Kynnett	31
T. Cock, not-out	19
Byes 6; n-b. 1	7
	111

V. H. Lanning, G. Gutierrez, A. H. White, and H. Wilson did not bat.

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

TAIKOO.

	Overs.	Mdns.	Runs.	Wkts.
A. E. Stewart	10	1	20	1
O. V. Lanning	9	1	25	1
Goodfellow	6	2	10	1
V. H. Lanning	4	1	13	2
Gutierrez	3	1	7	3
G. F. Lanning	23	0	4	2

S.P.S.A.C.

	Overs.	Mdns.	Runs.	Wkts.
Sharples	12	1	37	2
Buchanan	10	0	35	2
Kynnett	2	0	14	1
Palmer	4	0	12	0
Pearce	3	1	4	0
Shadgett	1	0	2	0

THE SHANGHAI YACHT CLUB.

THE 2½-RATERS.

The course for the race amongst the 2½-raters on Saturday was down river to Pheasant Point, round the Kwashing, and back, distance 22 miles, the start being at 2.30. There was a breeze of good strength from a southerly direction, veering occasionally from east to west. The *Spoondrift* and *Lorna* crossed the line nearly together, the *Violet* some little distance behind. The *Lorna* and *Spoondrift* had a reef down, the *Violet* carrying full sail. The *Lorna* soon took a lead, and continued to increase it. The *Violet* gradually caught up the *Spoondrift*, and off Black Point was nearly level with her. The *Spoondrift* elected to go down the centre of the junk channel, the *Violet* working over to the Hongkew shore. The *Spoondrift* had the best of this manoeuvre, as was shown by the distance between the boats at Pheasant Point. The order rounding the Kwashing was:—*Lorna*, *Spoondrift*, and *Violet*, but no times were taken, some distance separating both. It was now a dead-beat back up the junk channel, and a brisk breeze against the flood-tide raised a lump of a sea, which should have been in favour of the *Violet*, but, for some reason or other, she failed to show her usual form in this sort of work, as the *Spoondrift* fully maintained her position, and reduced, to a small extent, the long lead that the *Lorna* had secured. Off Kajao Creek the race was practically settled. It was a long leg and a short leg back to the Point and a reach home, the finish being as follows:—

<i>Lorna</i>	6h. 29m. 10s.
<i>Spoondrift</i>	6h. 37m. 43s.
<i>Violet</i>	6h. 46m. 21s.

The points to date are:—

<i>Lorna</i>	72 points.
<i>Spoondrift</i>	64
<i>Violet</i>	33

THE HANDICAP CLASS.

There were five starters in this race, the *Ella*, *Idaho*, *Henrietta*, *Nellie*, and *Coronella*. This was the *Nellie*'s first appearance since the yachting season of 1895, and an experiment was tried by her owner in the shape of dividing the mainsail into four separate parts, the divisions being laced together, but it does not seem to have made any improvement in her speed. The boats got away in the order named, and in the reach down though the shipping the *Coronella* passed the *Nellie*. Sheets were eased off and spinnakers set at the Point. Off Kajao Creek the *Henrietta* passed the *Idaho* and ran into second place, but before Gough Island was passed the *Idaho* again took second place and the *Henrietta* fell back into fourth position, being passed by the *Coronella*, which rapidly improved her position and obtained second place. An exciting race then ensued between these three boats to the Kwashing, which was rounded as follows:

<i>Ella</i>	4h. 28m.
<i>Henrietta</i>	4h. 32m.
<i>Coronella</i>	4h. 33m.
<i>Idaho</i>	4h. 34m.
<i>Nellie</i>	not timed.

It was a beat up against a heavy sea to the Point, in which the *Coronella* and *Idaho* weathered both the *Henrietta* and *Ella*, but off the Point the *Idaho* lost a little time in shaking out a reef, as did also the *Coronella*, and the *Ella* again took the lead. The order was then *Ella*, *Coronella*, *Idaho*, which was maintained to the finishing line, which was crossed as follows:—

<i>Ella</i>	6h. 39m. 00s.
<i>Coronella</i>	6h. 40m. 15s.
<i>Idaho</i>	6h. 41m. 46s.
<i>Henrietta</i>	6h. 55m. 00s.
<i>Nellie</i>	late.

The handicap was as follows:—

<i>Coronella</i>	<i>Henrietta</i>	<i>Nellie</i>	<i>Idaho</i>	<i>Lamb</i>	<i>Joke</i>
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allow 6 minutes. 30 minutes. 44 minutes.

allow 24 minutes. 38 minutes.

allow 14 minutes.

The result is therefore:—

Corrected Times.

<i>Idaho</i>	4h. 05m. 46s.
<i>Ella</i>	4h. 09m. 00s.
<i>Coronella</i>	4h. 10m. 15s.
<i>Henrietta</i>	4h. 19m. 00s.

This is the *Idaho*'s first win.

THE "FLAPPERS."

All the boats started, the course being down river round a stake-boat moored off the Kajao Creek. The *Sybil* and *Leven* got over the line together first, followed by the *Merlin* and the *Clyde*. All started with two reefs down, with the exception of the *Clyde*, which had three. The *Madcap*, apparently, mistook the starting hour, as she only got up to the line with the 2½-raters. On the reach and run down the *Sybil* drew away from the *Leven*, but the other boats held their places. The *Sybil* was first round the mark-boat by about 3½ minutes, the *Leven* second, the *Clyde* third, the *Merlin* fourth, and the *Madcap* a long way last. After rounding the mark-boat the *Leven* shook out a reef, but did not gain at all on the *Sybil*. The *Merlin* on the beat back stopped and took in another reef. It was a long and a short leg back up to the Point, a steep sea running, wind against tide. After passing the Point sheets were eased off and coming in to the harbour the wind fell lighter. The *Sybil* scored her first win

handsomely, the *Leven*, which did not seem to be in her usual trim coming in second. The finishing times were:—

<i>Sybil</i>	5h. 08m. 30s.
<i>Leven</i>	5h. 12m. 55s.
<i>Clyde</i>	5h. 20m. 39s.
<i>Merlin</i>	5h. 25m. 02s.
<i>Madcap</i>	5h. 27m. 08s.

SHOOTING.

S. M. P.

A specially arranged competition for a prize, a handsome clock in morocco leather case presented by Mr. E. J. Calbeck, took place on Wednesday morning, amongst the foreign members of the Municipal Police Force, and resulted, after a spirited contest, in a win for P.C. Rumbold.

The conditions of competition were:—Fire five rounds at 300 yards, double to and fire five rounds at 250 yards, double to and fire five rounds at 200 yards, and cease firing. Fixed sights: position, kneeling or prone, painted 8in. bull's eye, time allowed, 4 minutes. Scoring as in ordinary competitions:—

	Bull's eyes.	Inners.	Magpies.	Outers.	Total.	Time.
P.C. Rumbold	4	4	3	3	54	3.15
P.S. Lynch	4	4	3	4	53	3.15
Insp. Bourke	3	6	4	1	53	3.30
P.S. Macdonald	4	4	3	4	53	3.15
" Gibson	1	7	4	3	51	3.40
P.C. Wood	3	4	4	4	51	3.15
" Dahl	1	8	2	3	49	4.00
P.S. Ross	0	8	5	1	49	4.00
P.C. Spottiswoode	2	3	6	3	46	3.10
P.S. Culshaw	1	4	6	3	45	3.30
" Laureson	1	2	7	4	42	3.20
" Champion, M.	0	5	4	5	42	3.30
" Chilver	2	1	3	8	39	3.15
" Smith	0	5	2	6	38	3.00
P.C. Jespersen	0	2	4	7	34	3.30
" Oliver	0	0	4	11	34	3.15
" Zeihm	0	2	1	9	29	3.30
" Thomas	0	1	4	6	28	3.30
" Douglas	0	0	14	28	3.10	
" Ross	0	3	2	4	26	3.05
" Vincent	2	1	2	3	26	4.00
" Macdonald	0	0	1	5	13	3.90

The Police Monthly Cup and Club competitions for August were competed for on Thursday morning at 200 and 300 yards, the Cup being won by P.C. Rumbold, for the first time, with a score of 55 points.

The Club prizes were, after deducting handicap points, won by:—

P.C. Rumbold	1st.
P.C. Jespersen	2nd.
P.S. Lynch	3rd.
Insp. Bourke	4th.
P.S. Laureson	5th.

Correspondence.

THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE.

To the Editor of the

NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS.

SIR,—Herewith, to you and all my friends, both foreign and Chinese, my "P. P. C." And the crowd cries, "Good riddance!" Yes, but I will be back soon, when the times are good, and exchange improves.

The opening of the campaign here in China for the International Institute has been far more satisfactory and encouraging than my heartiest supporters ever thought possible. The amount of money contributed, as shown by the third list, is, in round numbers, some 20,000 taels, making one fifth of the estimated cost of the buildings to be erect-

ed. Of this amount nearly two-thirds have come from the Chinese.

On the basis of such facts it is my duty and a pleasure to express my appreciation of the help rendered by these my Chinese friends. I came to Shanghai a stranger to them, and yet acquaintances have been made among the leading Chinese officials, merchants, the guilds, compradores, and wealthy retired gentlemen living on the Bubbling Well Road. Several of them have exerted themselves to raise money; one man collecting as much as \$1,000. The native papers have had articles commending the scheme. Confidence in the scheme and myself has been secured to a remarkable degree. The money has been given without expressing any suspicion as to its proper use. Here, in fact, is the noticeable feature of the relation of the Institute to the Chinese. The scheme is one drawn up by a foreigner, to advance Western ideas, and not only is it formally sanctioned by the Government, but it receives the financial support of merchant and mandarin alike, and this, though up to the present, no Chinese has been put on any Committee.

It might be noted that the entrance of an unofficial foreigner either to the official circles of Peking or the Chinese merchant class of Shanghai has not been without difficulty. And yet such an entrance being possible is the best of proofs that the Institute itself will not become a shattered dream or a fond delusion.

I wish to make special reference to the courteous treatment extended by all the officials in Wuchang, from the Viceroy Chang Chih-tung to the local authorities of the city. Not only was money contributed and interviews accorded, but two repasts were spread by the Governor and the Provincial Treasurer. The introduction was from the R.R. Director-General Sheng.

The cordial support rendered by so many of the leading foreign merchants in Shanghai, not only in the public meeting held at the beginning, but, all along since, has been to me personally most gratifying, for I realised that the attitude towards the scheme in the home lands would largely depend on the way the matter was received here in China. The excellent Committee gives solidity to the undertaking, and makes even a preacher other than a mere dreamer.

I may add that if any one wishes to secure the post of canvassing for money in behalf of the Institute, I will not stand in the way—no, not for a day.

The list of givers which has been published indicated at the start the cosmopolitan character of the Institute. Not only persons from all nationalities have contributed, but of all creeds—and no creed—Protestant, Greek Church, Roman Catholic, Jew, Parsee, Mahomedan. The work to be done will aim to benefit all classes, while specially adhering to the idea of benefiting the masses of the Chinese by securing the co-operation of their leaders.

"The greatest study of mankind is man," and a good way to learn this lesson is to go around "begging." I acknowledge that my instructors for the past two months have been varied and many, and I hope that the knowledge gained will make the task of raising at home the other four-fifths of the money easier, as the months pass by.

In case there are those at any of the ports who now have sufficient evidence that the International Institute is going through, and would be willing to contribute, they may do so through Dr. W. A. P. Martin, Peking; W. C. C. Anderson, Esq., Tientsin; Rev. Geo. Cornwell, Chefoo; and J. S. Fearon, Esq., Shanghai. Such co-operation will greatly aid my labours in the home lands.

With thanks for all the cheering words spoken and the money given, and in the hope that the future may see the speedy

consummation of all efforts put forth to uplift and regenerate China,

I am, etc.,

GILBERT REID.

Shanghai, 18th August.

To the Editor of the

NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS.

Herewith the third list of the subscribers to the fund of the International Institute:—

	Tls.	\$
Amounts previously acknowledged (minus \$300)	6,827	4,680.47
In this were included four gifts of Tls. 1,000 each, China Merchants S.S. Co., J. T. Hamilton, for Am. Equitable Life Ass. Co., the Shanghai Taotai Liu; and the R. R. Director Gen. Sheng.		
H.E. the Viceroy of Hunan and Hupeh, Chang Chih-tung, 1,000		
H.E. the Gov. of Hupeh, Tan Chi-hsun	1,000	
The Rev. W. A. P. Martin, D.D., LL.D., Peking	1,000	
(This takes the place of \$300), H.E. the Viceroy at Nanking, Liu Kun-yi	1,000	
E. Bard	20	
H. Browett	10	
C. and J. Trading Co.	200	
Chas. Dowdall	100	
A. S. Fobes	10	
S. Hankin	10	
N. Macleod	50	
W. J. Milles	25	
R. S. Raphael	15	
T. E. Trueman	10	
L. Van der Stegen	25	
Taotai Ts'ai Hsi-yung, Wuchang	200	
Taotai Chu Yen-chao, Hankow	200	
Hupeh Salt Commissioner, Chi Chih-hsun	200	
Hupeh Grain Commissioner Ch'en	200	
Tung Yu hong	100	
The Shanghai Dispensary	50	
Zee Lan-char	100	
Gifts per Liu Hsiao-hsun	500	
A "poor friend"	1	
E. C. Carlson	5	
"C. M."	2	
Th. Eysel	10	
F. Foremny	20	
J. A. Hawes	10	
Hirsbrunner & Co.	10	
K. Kominami	5	
A. P. Malig	50	
Wm. Meyerink	25	
N. M. Molchanoff	100	
A. Neubourg	10	
E. H. Oxley	20	
S. A. Petchanoff	100	
A. E. Reynell	20	
L. H. Roots	5	
L. Rosenthal	10	
Sennet Frères	10	
P. L. Warren	20	
H. Witte	10	
The Treasurer of Hupeh, Wang Chih-ch'un	500	
A Chinese friend, Tientsin ..	100	
Tun Chi-t'ang	20	
Hu T'ing Chou	20	
Chun Fai-ting, Ch. Merchants' Tong Kidson, Compradore of Jardine's	100	
Hu Ch'i, of Mandl & Co.	100	
Zi Chin Foo, of H. & S. Bank.	100	
S. F. Wu, of Arnold Karberg & Co.	100	
Three friends, Cash Shop Guild	200	
Ch'eng Chin-hsien	100	
Zih Yue-kong, of Chartered Bank	100	
Yih Ming-tsah, Yokohama Specie Bank	100	
Son Kut-Choon, of E. D. Sassoon & Co., ...	100	
Cheng Kuan Ying	100	
Pon Hork-kum, of Taumeyer & Co.	100	
Ch'en K'o-Liang, of Butterfield and Swire	100	
C.K. Chen, of Fobes & Co.	10	

T'ang Chung-liang, of Dodwell Carill & Co	25
Hung Chong hong	30
M. Chang, of David Sassoon's Chou Lien-t'ang, of D. Sassoon Chow Chew Kua, of Melchers & Co	30
Yang Hai-ter, of Iveson & Co. Ch'en I-chi, of Ilbert & Co. ...	50
Wang K'o-min, Frazar & Co. ...	50
Wah Cheong shop	10
Money per Chang Kee— Ex-Magistrate at Soochow, Yeh Hui-shan	400
Yao Fang-mei	100
Wu Shao-ch'ing	100
Zeo Ti-san	100
Shih Tsz-ying	50
Chang Kee	250
Chu Hsun-t'ang	5
Hsieh Tsz-nan	50
Tan Wei-chen	30
Chang Yin-Kung, of McBain's Wang Ming-ho	50
Liu Sung-fu, of Turnbull, Howie & Co	50
Chang Yao-ts'u, of E. Fabaney Great Chinese Dispensary	50
Ku Mien-fu	50
Ho Tan-shiu, of Bucheister & Co.	20
Eu Shan-ray, of Carlowitz & Co. Z. Fong-kee, of C. & J. Trading Co.	10
Ku Ching-shi	25
Liang Tsz-chih	10
Tong Kut Kee	5
Tong Yu Kee	5
Tong Che Kee	5
Joe & Mingkee	5
Achee, of Meyerink & Co.	10
Chu Chin-hsien	10
Ch'en Kuang-ch'ing	5
Lai-Ying-cheong, of P. & O. S. S. Co.	5
Tong Fung-chee, of China Merchants	50
Yang Sau-luh, of Oliver Langenhage & Co.	5
Chen Lung-ta T'ang, of Reiss & Co.	10
Wang Chin-hou	5
Chu Pao-san	100
Mr. Liang of Yung Tai-yuan Tea-hong	50
Mr. Yeh Ch'un Hua-hsiang Tea-hong	50
Mr. Fong Ch'ien Shun-an Tea- hong	25
Mr. Chiang Sen Sheng-heng Tea-hong	25
Huang Yu-ch'ing T'ang	50
Chu Chong-kuai	50

Tls. 12,852 \$9,343.47

GILBERT REID.

THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL AND THE HEALTH OFFICER.

To the Editor of the

NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS.

SIR,—The Council has not published the whole of the correspondence in its possession relating to myself, and I shall therefore thank you if you will make public the letters, etc., enclosed herewith. It is also desirable that my letters, dated the 13th and 15th of July, 1897, be re-published. I am, etc.,

J. TAYLOR GRANT.

20th August.

Shanghai June 25th, 1897.

DEAR SIRS,—After considering the position of affairs I have decided to lay the matter before our Agreement, etc., before the Council.

Yours faithfully,

J. TAYLOR GRANT.

DRS. HENDERSON, MACLEOD AND MILLES.

Shanghai, June 25th, 1897.

DEAR SIR,—Having the honour to hold the appointments of Municipal Surgeon and Health Officer to the Municipality, and as it may be necessary for me to hand my resigna-

tion to Drs. Henderson, Macleod and Milles, it is only right that you should be informed that I find myself in a position that is utterly unprofessional; and while the Agreement existing between the firm of Drs. Henderson, Macleod and Milles and myself constitutes me their employé, I have been informed by the acting-Secretary that the Council looks on me as its servant.

Certain correspondence has already taken place between that firm and myself, and I enclose copies of it, together with my Agreement, all of which I shall thank you to lay before the Council at its next meeting that it may see exactly how matters stand.

Yours faithfully,

J. TAYLOR GRANT.

To A. R. BURKILL, Esq.,
Chairman, Municipal Council,
Shanghai.

Enclosures: Agreement with Drs. Henderson, Macleod and Milles. Two letters to Drs. Henderson, Macleod and Milles. One letter from Drs. Henderson, Macleod and Milles.

16, Hankow Road,
Shanghai, 15th June, 1897.

DEAR SIRS,—With reference to recent conversations about agreement:—

When engaged in London I was given distinctly to understand that my position was to be that of assistant to such member of your firm as held the appointments of Municipal Surgeon, Health Officer, and Surgeon to the Lock Hospital, and on that basis terms were agreed on.

Since 26th June 1897 no member of your firm has held these appointments, but they have been held by me without any objection having been raised on your part, and I find that the Council regards me as its direct servant, and your firm as rendering me such assistance as may be required.

Neither the Council nor yourselves have expressed dissatisfaction with my services.

At this date I could certainly not agree to become merely an assistant to anyone holding these offices.

Had it been made clear to me at the time of engagement that you were deputed by the Council to select a successor to the then holder of the appointments, I should not, for a moment, have agreed to several clauses in the existing Agreement, especially that preventing me from negotiating direct with the Council at the end of the five years, etc. As regards Clause 11, I object to it altogether and that portion of it relating to the possibility of my taking up private practice here, I shall, under the circumstances, refuse to recognise unless you on your part are bound to a reasonable consideration in return, as I am sure that the Council, in the event of its desiring to discontinue with my services, could have no reason or wish to restrain me from following my profession; and I also claim to be left perfectly free to negotiate direct with the Council at the end of the fifth year with a view to future arrangements, as a matter of right both to the Council and myself.

Should any new Agreement be drawn up it would be necessary to alter the termination clause, in such a way that the Agreement could only be terminated by my inability through ill-health to perform my duties or by written notice from the Council stating reasons for dissatisfaction with my services. This, I think you will agree, is not only fair but a necessary protection for myself, to whom such an event would be serious indeed.

Dr. Macleod pointed out that if the firm agreed to accept the terms I verbally proposed, his share of the balance would be too small.

This having been mentioned, I would reply that the dividing up between your several partners of the assistance that may be required is done for the convenience of yourselves, but is no reason for valuing that help any higher than if it were given by one person.

Tls. 7,000 per annum are paid you by the Council as the remuneration of the Municipal Surgeon and Health Officer, and as payment for your services in assisting him when required. Such assistance has been and can only be a fraction of the work which you performed when your firm held these offices and accepted Tls. 2,100 per

annum for their full performance. Yet under the agreement at present existing between us I receive for the

1st year.....	£600	say about Tls. 4,200
2nd „	650	„ „ 4,550
3rd „	700	„ „ 4,900
4th „	750	„ „ 5,250
5th „	800	„ „ 5,600

an average of £725 a year: say, about Tls. 5,075.

During the first year you have received about £400, and I should you agree to the proposal I made at Dr. Macleod's request the other day, viz., £300 a year for the remaining 4 years if your firm provides me with suitable quarters and brougham, or otherwise £900, it would still leave £300 for the five years, or an average of £160 a year, or say about Tls. 1,120 a year for such assistance as may be required. It is also well to bear in mind that it is unnecessary for you to perform any of my duties except in the case of my falling sick, or being absent on holidays, and that none of my duties have been performed by yourselves with the exception of the attendance on such patients as you claim to have care of without my consent. Of course, I am not losing sight of, nor undervaluing, the occasional instances in which I have consulted you in reference to special treatment of patients.

Dr. Macleod told me that the firm attends a number of Municipal employes. In Mr. J. L. Scott's speech at the Ratepayers' Meeting in February, 1896, he distinctly stated that the Municipal Surgeon would have medical and surgical charge of the Municipal Staff and Police Force, but not of their families. Such employes, therefore, should not, without my permission, consult your firm except in your capacities as private practitioners; and I may say in addition, that from my knowledge of those under my charge, the Municipal employes who have continued to remain under your care are very few indeed.

I was surprised at Dr. Macleod mentioning the occasional lending of instruments as a matter for which remuneration was necessary, for, as you are well aware, any member of the profession in Shanghai would have just as readily acceded to the few requests of this nature that I have had to make.

At Dr. Macleod's request I have written in detail my opinion and ideas regarding the Agreement, and will thank you to reply to the same by the 20th inst., also in writing.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

J. TAYLOR GRANT.

DRS. HENDERSON, MACLEOD & MILLES.

Shanghai, 18th June, 1897.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to your letter of the 15th inst. we would point out that when Dr. Milles engaged your services in London, he was not himself in possession of sufficient information to admit of his exactly defining the position which you would occupy on arriving in Shanghai; he certainly, however, held out to you the prospect of your being made Health Officer by the Council, although remaining in the service and under the control of our firm. On this understanding, on your arrival in Shanghai, when the Council offered you the appointment of Health Officer, etc., we naturally made no objection, regarding your official recognition by the Council as a distinct advantage to all concerned. In appointing you the Council made no terms with you, having already arranged these with us. We understood that you accepted the nomination of the Council gladly and without hesitation, and neither we nor you at that time regarded the appointment or your acceptance of it as any breach of our agreement. We do not so regard it now.

It is impossible that it could ever have been made clear to you in London that we "were deputed by the Council to select a successor to the then holder of the appointment," as we did and do not now consider that our understanding with the Council gave us the power to do this.

As regards direct negotiation at the end of five years, you have already been told by Dr. Macleod that this was never intended to be included in your Agreement, as we had, from the first, arranged with the Council that your services could be retained by the Council at the end of five years if it desired to do so.

As regards your right to engage in private practice in Shanghai, in the event of the Council dispensing with your services, we do not at present propose to discuss that question.

We do not think that under the circumstances which have arisen, any alteration in the "termination clauses" is desirable.

While admitting that you may be in a position to estimate the value of your own services, we cannot accept your judgment as to the value of ours.

We are sorry that in referring to the assistance we have given you in your work during the past year, you can only now recall such comparatively trifling matters as the lending of instruments or the help occasionally given you in the treatment of your patients.

When we made our arrangements with the Council it was contemplated that some difficulty might arise in transferring attendance on the Municipal Staff to a younger and less experienced man, and this was one of the conditions on which our agreement with the Council was based. We do not, therefore, require your "permission" when we are called on to attend a member of the Municipal Staff; at the same time, we think it right to point out to you that in this matter we have treated you from the first with every possible consideration.

In conclusion, we would point out that the lawyers on both sides, who drew up the Agreement between ourselves and you in London, were fully informed of the difficulty which Dr. Milles experienced in exactly defining the position which you would occupy on reaching Shanghai, and advised that, under the circumstances, the only form of Agreement possible would be one describing you as Assistant to our firm; the position which, to our surprise, you now find to be inconsistent with your appointment by the Council as Municipal Surgeon and Health Officer.

The verbal proposal made by you now referred to in your letter is not one to which we can agree. We understand, however, that the Council is likely now to withdraw from you quarters and locomotion, expenses which you estimate at £100 per annum; should this be done, we are willing to allow you £15.700 per annum in addition to the salary fixed by Agreement, in order that you may not be financially in a worse position.

We are,

Yours faithfully,

HENDERSON, MACLEOD & MILLES.

Dr. J. TAYLOR GRANT.

Shanghai, 21st June, 1897.

DEAR SIRS,—I have received your letter of the 18th inst. and in reply desire to point out that whatever information Dr. Milles did or did not possess is a matter which concerns you and not myself. If he had not sufficient information he should, I presume, have secured it by telegraph, or should have been supplied with it at the time when Dr. Macleod wrote home to him regarding various points the agreement was to embody.

Dr. Milles did not hold out any prospect of my being made Health Officer, etc., during the first five years; but on the other hand gave me distinctly to understand that the position was to be only that of assistant to whichever member of your firm held these appointments, and of this the agreement itself is sufficient evidence, as also of the fact that all prospect, for a period of 15 years, of my being appointed Health Officer, etc., was made dependent on your consent in writing.

The Council never offered me the positions which I have now filled for a year. In fact I was never even consulted regarding the appointment to which I was gazetted within 7 days of my arrival in Shanghai, when it was impossible for me to understand the position of affairs; and only on the appearance of the last Municipal Budget did I discover that I am being farmed out to the Council in a manner that appears to me unprofessional, and that, therefore, my position is a false one.

By your own written acknowledgment, at the time when you made your arrangements with the Council, the "transferring attendance on the Municipal Staff to a younger and less experienced man" was contemplated, and therefore you must have understood that "you were deputed by the Council to select a successor to the then holder of the appointments," having found it impossible to do the

work owing to the pressure of your private practice.

That this was not made clear to me in London, I agree, and this is one of the chief objections I have raised, namely, that I was engaged not as Municipal Surgeon and Health Officer, etc., but as Assistant, and naturally for the subsidiary post accepted terms I would not have agreed to had it been made clear that I was at once, on my arrival, to take up the full duties and responsibilities of the actual holder of the posts.

As regards negotiation at the end of five years between the Council and myself, Dr. Macleod only verbally offered to waive this point two weeks ago, when, at his request, I met him to discuss the position of affairs.

Whether it was or was not intended to be included in the Agreement I must leave you to say, but nevertheless the fact remains that it was included.

As you suggest, it is needless to discuss the question of the possibility of my engaging in private practice, as the clause is utterly valueless, and I should, under the circumstances that have arisen, if it suited me, disregard its provisions entirely.

The "comparatively trifling matters" of lending instruments and the attendance on a few Municipal employes were apparently the chief assistance that could be recalled by Dr. Macleod, for they were first mentioned in this connection by him, and until then not even referred to by me. On the other hand, I have no desire to under-estimate the value of any services that may have been rendered by you.

If Mr. J. L. Scott's speech in 1896 is the basis of my engagement, then it was intended that I should attend on all Municipal employes, but not their families, and this again, was not made clear to me in London.

You have apparently more knowledge of the information possessed by my lawyer than I had or have, for Dr. Milles' difficulties in defining my position were certainly never even mentioned to me by any of those concerned.

With me, the financial question is quite a secondary consideration, and I would be perfectly willing to become the direct servant of the Council, engaged and paid by it for the same salaries as under the present Agreement with yourselves, together with brougham and quarters, provided that the amounts paid you for your assistance, etc., etc., appear as such, repaid in the Budget and Financial Statement from that paid me as salary for the appointments of Health Officer, etc., etc.

It is evidently useless to unnecessarily prolong this correspondence, which was commenced at your request, as it seems impossible for you to understand my position in the matter, and I have fully made up my mind, if a satisfactory solution cannot shortly be arrived at, to give you six months' notice of termination, when I will inform the Council of my decision and the reasons for it, and, if necessary, for the protection of my own interests and future, publish my reasons for giving up the post, together with our correspondence.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

J. TAYLOR GRANT.

Drs. HENDERSON, MACLEOD & MILLES.

Municipal Council,

Shanghai, 28th June, 1897.

Sir,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, addressed to the Chairman, of the 25th instant, enclosing certain correspondence (copies) which has passed between Drs. Henderson, Macleod and Milles and yourself on the subject of your agreement with that firm.

In reply, I am instructed to say that your letter, with its enclosures, has been circulated for the information of all the Members of Council. Your Agreement I now return to you, herewith enclosed; the copies of the correspondence, referred to above, are kept for future reference.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. O. P. BLAND,
Acting Secretary.

To Dr. J. TAYLOR GRANT,
Municipal Health Officer.

Shanghai, 28th June, 1897.

DEAR SIR,—Since writing to you on the 25th inst. I have received the enclosed letter from Drs. Henderson, Macleod, and Milles which I will thank you to attach to the correspondence then sent you.

Yours faithfully,

J. TAYLOR GRANT.

A. R. BURKILL, Esq.,

Chairman,

Shanghai Municipal Council.

(1 Enclosure)

Shanghai, 26th June, 1897.

DEAR SIR,—We beg to acknowledge receipt of your letters of 21st and 25th June, the latter intimating your decision to lay the matter re our agreement, etc., before the Council.

With regard to the offer we made in our first letter of an allowance of £15.700 per annum, in addition to your salary as per agreement, we wish now to add that we reserve to ourselves the right to withdraw it from the date on which you give notice of your desire to terminate your agreement with us.

Yours faithfully,

(Sd.) HENDERSON, MACLEOD and MILLES.

Dr. J. TAYLOR GRANT.

[Note by Dr. Grant:—This was to be paid only if the Council withdraw brougham and quarters. The brougham and present offices, including a bedroom, were given me by Mr. J. L. Scott's Council, and with his full knowledge and authority; he also said the Council would, no doubt in time, provide proper residential quarters.]

J. T. G.]

Shanghai Municipal Council,
Health Department,
16, Hankow Road.

12th July, 1897.

SIR,—With regard to the letter of June, 26th, 1897, from Drs. Henderson, Macleod and Milles which I sent to the Chairman on the 28th of June, 1897, I will thank you to return it to me after it has been circulated amongst the members of Council—as it is an original one.

Yours faithfully,

J. T. GRANT,
Municipal Surgeon and
Health Officer.

J. O. P. BLAND, Esq.,

Acting Secretary,

Shanghai Municipal Council.

Municipal Council,

Shanghai, 12th July, 1897.

MY DEAR GRANT,—I return you the letter in question, of which I have taken a copy. In your letter of 28th June to the Chairman, you asked that this should be "attached to the correspondence sent on 25th"—this was accordingly done, though, of course, under ordinary circumstances it would have been returned to you. I will submit it, if you like, to Council to-morrow?

Yours truly,

J. O. P. BLAND.

Dr. J. TAYLOR GRANT.

Shanghai, 12th July, 1897.

SIR,—Of course I intended the letter to be attached to be circulated. I return the letter and will be glad if you will submit it, together with the notes on it, to the Council.

Yours faithfully,

J. TAYLOR GRANT.

J. O. P. BLAND, Esq.,

Acting Secretary,

Shanghai Municipal Council.

Shanghai, 4th July, 1897.

DEAR SIR,—In terms of our agreement with you, Clause 11, we hereby give you our consent in writing to hold the appointments conferred upon you by the Council and gazetted last year. We also give you, in terms of the same clause of the agreement, our consent in writing to becoming the servant of the Council at the end of our agreement with you, and in conformity with our agreement with the Council, as it was never intended we should do otherwise.

For your guidance in the performance of your duties to the Council we wish it to be distinctly understood that in all matters of difficulty or uncertainty, and in all matters of expression of opinion as to advisability of particular courses of action in relation to these duties, that you shall confer with one of us at least.

Further, as a Municipal servant you are not at liberty to discuss Municipal matters in the public press or outside Municipal circles, according to Municipal regulations. A copy of this letter will be handed to the Chairman of Council.

Yours, etc.,

HENDERSON, MACLEOD & MILLES

To Dr. J. TAYLOR GRANT.

(Enclosure.)

Shanghai Municipal Council,
Health Department.

13th July, 1897.

DEAR SIRS,—In answer to your letter of the 4th inst. I have pleasure in acknowledging receipt of your written consent to my holding the Municipal Appointments which the Council conferred on me over a year ago.

As this terminates my agreement as your Assistant I presume the Council will, as is usual with all Municipal servants, enter into an agreement with me.

As Health Officer I am not able to recognise any orders or instructions unless they come to me through the channels and in the method prescribed by the Municipal Regulations, so that no doubt I shall shortly be officially intimated by the Council of their desire that I should consult you when necessary.

Yours faithfully,

J. TAYLOR GRANT.

Drs. HENDERSON, MACLEOD, & MILLES.

Shanghai Municipal Council,
Health Department,
16, Hankow Road,
15th July, 1897.

SIRS,—With regard to this morning's conference, seeing that there has been some misunderstanding somewhere, I am prepared, should the Council decide that I ought to have been given instructions to pay the Health Fees from Messrs. Butterfield & Swire into the Municipal Council, to ascertain from that firm the total amount since my arrival and repay them to the Council, it being distinctly understood that up till now I have been under the impression that they were mine, an understanding given me, as I explained this morning, by Dr. Henderson on my arrival.

Yours faithfully,

J. TAYLOR GRANT.

The CHAIRMAN and SUB-COMMITTEE
of the Municipal Council.

Shanghai, 15th July, 1897.

DEAR SIR,—We have to request you to send us a note of all the Health Bills you have issued since your arrival in Shanghai with the number you have collected and also the number passed on to the Council for collection.

Yours faithfully,

HENDERSON, MACLEOD & MILLES.

Dr. J. TAYLOR GRANT.

Shanghai, 16th July, 1897.

DEAR SIRS,—In reply to your note of yesterday I have to say that as the matter referred to is one which concerns me in my "official capacity" and is already in the hands of a Council Committee, any communications regarding it should reach me through the Committee.

I may say, however, that previous to receiving your note I had already written the Committee on the subject.

Yours faithfully,

J. TAYLOR GRANT.

Drs. HENDERSON, MACLEOD & MILLES.

Shanghai, 16th July, 1897.

DEAR SIR,—I am in receipt of your letter of to-day's date which I understand is a refusal to give us the information regarding the Bills of Health.

Yours faithfully,

N. MACLEOD.

Municipal Council,

Shanghai, 2nd August, 1897.

DEAR SIR,—I shall be obliged if you will furnish me with a copy of the Council minutes dated 9th July, 1896, relating to Bills of Health Fees.

Yours faithfully,

J. TAYLOR GRANT.

J. O. P. BLAND, Esq.,
Acting Secretary,

Extract from Minutes,

7th July, 1896.

"Referring to the arrival of Dr. J. Taylor Grant, the Chairman mentions that arrangements are now being made to provide 'quarters,' etc. (re laboratory, brougham, etc.).

"With regard to Bills of Health which he will be required to furnish, Dr. Henderson used to charge Tls. 5 for each, but perhaps it will be better that in future this should be a Municipal charge. The fees only amount to about Tls. 150 per annum."

True Copy,

J. O. P. BLAND,
Acting Secretary.

Municipal Council,

Shanghai, 12th Aug., 1897.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to your note of this date, I now send you the official press-copy of the Council's letter of 21st July to Drs. Henderson, Macleod and Milles. Would you kindly return the same, at your early convenience, to the Council's archives—after taking a copy of it, should you so wish?

Yours faithfully,

J. O. P. BLAND,
Acting Secretary.

Dr. J. TAYLOR GRANT,
Municipal Health Officer,
&c., &c.

21st Ju'y, 1897.

GENTLEMEN,—I have been instructed to inform you that the Council is dissatisfied with Dr. Taylor Grant, in regard to his conduct.—and to convey to your Firm notice of the Council's dissatisfaction.

In accordance with the terms of Dr. Henderson's letter to the Chairman of the Council dated 14th Dec., 1895, I am now directed to request that you will undertake the duties of Municipal Health Officer, and continue to carry on the same until the arrival of a new and duly qualified man.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,
J. O. P. BLAND,
Acting Secretary.

Drs. HENDERSON, MACLEOD & MILLES.

Shanghai, 19th August, 1897.

SIR,—The Municipal Council having given us notice that they are dissatisfied with you in regard to your conduct, we now give you six calendar months' notice to terminate your engagement with us.

We are, dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

HENDERSON, MACLEOD, & MILLES.

Dr. J. T. GRANT.

Shanghai, 20th August, 1897.

DEAR SIRS,—I have to acknowledge receipt of yours of the 19th inst. giving me six calendar months' notice to terminate the agreement between us. I will, therefore, thank you to let me have instruction as to the work you desire me to do.

As the Council have not published the whole of the correspondence in their possession, and being no longer Health Officer or in Municipal employ, I am handing the letters, etc., omitted by the Council, including our correspondence up to present date, to the Press for publication.

Yours faithfully,

J. TAYLOR GRANT.

Drs. HENDERSON, MACLEOD, & MILLES.

Shanghai, 20th August, 1897.

SIR,—In answer to the desire for instructions which you express in your letter of us of to-day, we have to request you to continue to perform the duties which you have lately been performing, except that instead of signing as Health Officer it will now be necessary for you to forward the documents

requiring the signature of the Health Officer to Dr. Henderson, for approval and signature. We will shortly make an appointment to meet you at the laboratory in order more fully to go into the details of the work.

Referring to the wording of your letter we would point out to you that the six months' notice we gave you was not to terminate your agreement, but only your engagement with us.

We are, dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

HENDERSON, MACLEOD, & MILLES,

Dr. J. T. GRANT.

Shanghai, 22nd August, 1897.

DEAR SIRS,—In answer to yours of the 20th inst. I must request you to be kind enough to embody in writing any instructions or directions which your firm desire me to follow, in order that further misunderstandings on the part of either of us may be avoided.

Yours faithfully,

J. TAYLOR GRANT.

Drs. HENDERSON, MACLEOD and MILLES.

To the Editor of the

NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS.

SIR,—From all that has come to light on the subject it would seem that it is the Municipal Council and not Dr. Grant that wants to keep the matter secret. Dr. Grant wishes to have all the facts published so that everybody may understand the case and judge for himself as to who is right and who is wrong. But the Council by advising secrecy and suppressing material portions of the correspondence shows that it has, to say the least, some hesitation in letting the public know all about the case. If this inference is correct, a further inference necessarily follows, viz., that the reasons for this apparent concealment are not such as honourable men would be willing to be governed by. It is plain, therefore, that the Municipal Council owes it to itself as well as to the Ratepayers, whom it represents in this transaction, to make public a full and unreserved statement of all the facts that have any material bearing on the case.

Again, as Dr. Hykes has recorded his protest against the action of the Council, it is very desirable that he should make a public statement of his reasons for doing so. Surely all who love justice and fairplay have a claim on Dr. Hykes for such a statement of the facts of the case, as he can give, better than any one else.

Once more, if a full statement of the facts of the case cannot be obtained and the matter settled in any other way, a meeting of the Ratepayers ought to be called to investigate the matter and take such action as the circumstances may require, and I will be glad to join the requisite number of voters in calling such a meeting.

I am, etc.,

JUSTITIA.

20th August.

To the Editor of the

NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS.

SIR,—The matter of the Municipal Council and the Health Officer tends to become daily more "mixed." But it is one that in the interests of all concerned should be clear and not "mixed" at all.

I therefore propose to state plainly what I understand to be the facts in so far as they are known, and if I am mistaken in any of them I am ready and willing to be contradicted. As to the few comments I have added they are merely the expression of an individual opinion and are, of course, only of the value each individual may choose to attach to them.

The affair seems to divide itself into seven principal stages, viz:—

1.—The Ratepayers at their Annual Meeting on the 10th of March, 1896, sanctioned the Council's making arrangements with Messrs. Henderson, Macleod and Milles

under which a medical man to perform the duties of Health Officer is to be brought out from England. The details of the arrangement are left to the Council, only five points being defined to the Ratepayers:—

That the new man is to be employed exclusively in Municipal work. That Messrs. Henderson, Macleod and Milles are to instruct and assist him for five years. That at the end of that period the Council is to negotiate direct with him as regards his continuance as Health Officer. That Messrs. Henderson, Macleod and Milles are to themselves perform his duties if he is for any reason temporarily unable to attend to them himself. That Messrs. Henderson, Macleod and Milles are to undertake to replace him, during the first five years, within six months if he should fail to perform his duties to the satisfaction of the Council.

Everything besides is left by the Ratepayers to the Council. Therefore, so long as the expenditure sanctioned is not exceeded, and none of the five points specially defined violated, it is hard to see how they can grumble at anybody, except the Council for 1896, over what may take place eventually.

2.—In pursuance of whatever was arrived at between the Council for 1896 and Messrs. Henderson, Macleod and Milles, the latter through Dr. Milles, then in England, engage Dr. J. Taylor Grant to be their assistant under an agreement, the points of which germane to the present matter being:—

a.—That Dr. Grant is to assist whichever member of the firm is Health Officer for the time being.

b.—That he is only required to do Municipal work, not assist in private practice.

c.—That the agreement may at once be terminated at any time if the Municipal Council ask that it should be.

d.—That the agreement may be terminated at any time by the firm giving him six months' notice.

e.—That after the first twelve months the agreement can be terminated at any time by his giving the firm six months' notice.

f.—That except as provided for in c, d, and e the agreement is to run for five years.

g.—That after the termination of the agreement he is not to engage in private practice within a certain specified distance of Shanghai.

h.—That after the termination of the agreement he is not to negotiate direct with the Municipal Council as regards the position of Health Officer for ten years.

b, c, d, e, f and g appear quite in order from a Ratepayer's point of view, but a is of doubtful propriety, though as more or less a matter of detail it may be passed; but b is altogether improper, being a thing the firm had no right under the premises submitted to the Ratepayers to demand, nor the Council any power to sanction.

3.—Dr. Grant arrives in Shanghai, takes up his duties and is immediately gazetted Municipal Health Officer and matters proceed, as far as transpires, smoothly.

4.—Then Dr. Grant becomes dissatisfied with his agreement and after some conversation and correspondence intimates to Messrs. Henderson, Macleod and Milles that as soon as he is entitled to do so, namely on the expiration of twelve months, he proposes to give them six months' notice, and further that he also proposes to make his reasons for doing this public.

5.—The firm, for some reason not clear to the outside world, instead of replying with some polite paraphrase of the Duke of Wellington's historic "Dear Fanny—Publish and be—", object altogether to such a course and endeavour to patch matters up.

6.—Then the Council, for some so far unexplained reason—for on the face of it a dispute between employers and employee had nothing to do with it—intervenes and in consequence of the dispute, with which I repeat it had apparently nothing to do,

suddenly asks Dr. Grant why he has considered certain fees paid him for signing ships' Bills of Health as his and not the Council's. This sounds rather like a bit of Ollendorf. "Have you seen my aunt's canary? No! but I have seen the mattress of the sailor!" but that it is intended for a logical sequence the order in which the Municipal Council itself publishes the correspondence shows. Dr. Grant appears before a select Committee of the Council about this matter of the Health Bill fees; that Committee declares his explanation unsatisfactory and he is asked to come before the whole Council. He stipulates that his legal adviser shall accompany him. This is granted and he meets the Council. What happens there has not been made public, but afterward a letter is addressed to him which gives him the choice between sending in his resignation to take effect from the 31st December, or of being dismissed at once. He says that this is an imputation on his character, and he certainly will not resign.

7.—And last—A Municipal Notification appears dismissing him.

Now, Sir, I appeal to you, is not there much in all this to puzzle a plain man who tries to go his way quietly and be as honest as, with exchange at 2/4, can be reasonably expected of him?

Still, one point stands out clear, that the only reason given by the Council for what it has done—and that not directly but by implication—is that the question of the Health Bill fees was not answered to its satisfaction, or, in other words and to come down to the plainest of plain English, that Dr. Grant stole them. The thing lies in a nut-shell, either he pocketed those fees believing them to be his, or, knowing they were not! If the former, even admitting he was mistaken, still it is not a thing to punish a man for. If the latter, then the Council should prosecute him, otherwise its members are compounding a felony.

At the same time, we all of us have no doubt at some time or another compounded felonies, and probably the ends of justice would have been sufficiently met by his summary dismissal.

However, Dr. Grant demands full publicity; he is entitled to it and he must have it in any way he wishes. That I believe to be the feeling of everyone.

I don't say the Council are wrong, and I don't say the Council are right; it will be quite time to pronounce judgment when both sides have been fully heard. The Council is composed of men in whose capacity and probity I have every belief, but after the way things have gone it owes it to itself, it owes it to Dr. Grant, and last, but not least, it owes it to the Ratepayers whom it represents to make the causes of its action clear down to the smallest detail, and I for one cannot doubt but that it will do so without delay.

I am, etc.,

Cecil HOLLIDAY.

21st Aug.

To the Editor of the

NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS.

SIR,—Dr. Grant may be assured that both the Council and the Ratepayers will give him full justice. But argue how we may the plain fact remains that the Scott Council "farmed out" the post of Municipal Health Officer to the medical firm of Messrs. Henderson, Macleod, and Milles. The Ratepayers did approve of the arrangement, it is true, but under protest, and only because of the confidence they placed in Mr. Scott did the vote pass; they seemingly did not fully realise the undignified and false position in which the Council and Ratepayers were being placed, nor could Mr. Scott have known into what he was being led. Dr. Grant soon saw the unprofessional position in which he was placed, and that he was, in fact, "farmed out," and protested. That

this is the case is amply shown by the recent appointment of Dr. Henderson as Health Officer, whereby Dr. Grant performs the work, but Dr. Henderson signs the official reports! It is high time that the Ratepayers put a stop to a state of affairs which is most undignified to all concerned, and which is, moreover, contrary to the Municipal Regulations. No charge of *ultra vires* can be brought against the Council or Ratepayers for remedying this matter; the charge lies, if it lie at all, with the 1895-6 Council and the firm.

I am, etc.,

RATEPAYER.

23rd August.

To the Editor of the

NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS.

SIR,—The correspondence published in your columns this morning makes confusion worse confounded and renders it absolutely imperative for the Council to publish their views on the subject and any unpublished information in their possession; this is due not only to themselves, but to their supporters and the ratepayers generally.

We are placed in a most undignified position and one which presents us in a very unfavourable light to the outside world. This model settlement of which we have all been so proud because of the smooth working of our (?) constitution seems at last to have overstretched itself, and in place of the harmony and continuity of action, which has hitherto regulated the Municipal Government, we are landed into an era of unrest and apparent fickleness.

I earnestly beg the Council to waive all personal feelings in this unfortunate business, and so save us from subsequent and worse disasters. If a wrong step has been made it is to be hoped it will be retraced. My appeal is made on behalf of good Government and the future of the Shanghai Municipality.

As a first step I would suggest the Health Officer should place his resignation in the hands of the Council to free their hands.

It is hardly likely that any man of ability and good standing will accept any position in the town unless he is assured of being generously treated. I do not wish to judge the Council unheard but it does look on the surface as though they had not made the necessary allowances for a man new to the community and one who is undoubtedly of conspicuous ability.

I am, etc.,

FAIRPLAY.

23rd August.

To the Editor of the

NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS.

SIR,—Thirty-one Ratepayers having this day signed a requisition convening a public meeting of Ratepayers to hear both sides of the question of Council *versus* the late Health Officer (Dr. Grant); I have, on their behalf, informed the Council through the acting Secretary to that effect.

The date of the meeting is fixed for Tuesday 7th September, the time 5 p.m., and the place the Astor Hall.

The Council have, through the Acting-Secretary, notified their intention of attending such meeting if held.

Kindly insert this in your columns so that all Ratepayers may be duly informed.

I am, etc.,

HERBERT D. HUTCHISON,
For the Signers.

25th Aug.

To the Editor of the

NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS.

SIR,—There is an evident attempt to make capital out of the alleged "farming" of the position of Health Officer by a former Council. Now, as a mere matter of English, the word "farming" can hardly be applied to the letting out of work to

contract. But that is all the Municipal Council actually did. Moreover, that was done with the sanction and approval of the Ratepayers, and it is simple nonsense to talk of their having been "hoodwinked." Mr. Scott, indeed, did not put what he had to say in the commonest colloquial English; he did not come down to that Ratepayers' Meeting and say, "Look here, the gentlemen, who have hitherto run the Health Officer's work amongst them, tell us they have now too much private 'pidgin' to go on with the job, and so we shall just have to find somebody else. Well, we don't feel particularly disposed to take the responsibility of 'buying a pig in a poke' by getting out somebody from home of whom we know nothing, except by hear-say, who will nevertheless have to be under an agreement for a term of years, and who, it may well happen, will neither suit us nor we him. We much prefer the alternative of paying a bit more, and contracting with the present incumbents of the office to supply us with a suitable person, to see he does his work properly, to do it for him if he is incapacitated for any reason, and to replace him at six months' notice if we don't like him. Then at the end of five years we shall have someone we know all about, and if we wish, we will engage him as a Municipal servant, pure and simple. That is the alternative we prefer and we recommend you to sanction it." Mr. Scott did not say it quite like that, he put it much more euphemistically; but if anybody thinks that the speech, taken as a whole, will bear any other interpretation, then let him sit down, figure it out and tell us what it is! And besides, your own paper the very next morning, published an article which stated in very plain terms indeed what was going to be done.

Yet the Ratepayers did nothing, and the only reasonable conclusion is that they were satisfied. Anyhow, it is obvious they cannot plead they "didn't understand."

Another point raised is that some people seem to doubt whether the course decided upon was in accordance with the Land Regulations; they should have thought of that in March, 1896.

However, there seems nothing in the Land Regulations that does not require a deal of twisting to even remotely be made to fit the case and, even if there were, are we not all agreed that the Land Regulations are obsolete, unsuitable to modern needs, and, in a word, altogether unworkable, and do we not frequently break them as it is? And if that is so where third parties are interested, is it not very feeble quibbling indeed to trot them out in a matter lying solely between the Ratepayers themselves?

Then there is an attempt to affix some sort of stigma to the firm of Doctors because they took the contract. This appears to me not a little discreditable.

If there is anything "unprofessional" in what they did, then every medical man in Shanghai is "unprofessional," for every one of them contracts to supply medical advice and knowledge to their patients for a lump sum per annum, and there is absolutely no difference in principle between a large contract and a small one, between taking so much from the Council for doing its work and taking so much from a private family for doing its work. Whether the Ratepayers did wisely or not may be a fair subject of discussion. Whether the firm of Doctors carried out their share of the bargain may be a fair matter for enquiry. But as to the propriety of the bargain itself I do not think any fair-minded man can have a doubt.

There has been a good deal of calling for "fair play." By all means, let us have the fair play but let it be "Fair play all round."

I am, etc.,

CECIL HOLLIDAY.

25th August.

To the Editor of the

NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS.

SIR,—I am sorry to see that sufficient ratepayers have been found to call a Ratepayer's Meeting to consider the matter between the Municipal Council and Dr. Grant.

Leaving aside the question of who is right and who is wrong, it seems to me that such action, at the present time, is most inexpedient. We have been given to understand that the whole matter is to form the basis of an action at law and I, therefore, think that until such action has taken place, the Ratepayers should not interfere.

We have elected a Council (the bulk of whom are good business men not likely to be led into hasty action on such a serious matter) to look after our interests, and we should support them instead of being ready to cavil at everything they do, and make their hard task harder still.

I hope that before the date fixed for the meeting the conveners will see fit, either to withdraw their notice, or, at any rate, to postpone it till after the case has come before the law courts.

I am, etc.,

G. A. MATTHEWS.

26th August.

To the Editor of the

NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS.

SIR,—As a Ratepayer I wish to record a protest against being called to attend a general meeting to vote upon the action of the Municipal Council in cancelling their previous appointment of Dr. J. Taylor Grant as Health Officer.

I think that, after having elected nine good men to conduct the government of this settlement, we may well conclude that the majority of them would not decide upon any certain course of action without good cause; and I think we owe it to our own dignity as also to the dignity of those we have elected to represent us, not to interfere in matters of detail connected with the work of our Municipal Council.

The question would be different if it were a matter of policy or principle, such as to the occasion that led to our last "indignation meeting;" but the present instance does not come under that category and, however much Dr. Grant or his friends may feel aggrieved, I submit it is not a matter that calls for the interference of the general body of Ratepayers.

I am, etc.,

HENRY GRIBBLE.

26th August.

IS THE MUNICIPAL MARKET INSPECTOR BLIND?

To the Editor of the

NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS.

SIR,—Despite a Municipal Notification to the effect that game shall not be permitted to be sold before the 1st September, it is no secret that pheasants have for some time past been procurable in the open market.

On the 5th of this month, under the guise of "Shantung chicken," a brace of cockerels disguised a certain *mén*.

On the 15th at a tiffin, roast pheasant appeared on the table.

On the 16th pheasants were served at dinner at a Bubbling Well Road table.

And only yesterday the butler of a certain big Club most properly got into hot water for submitting a bill of fare on which appeared the appetising (?) delicacy.

For the above facts I can produce chapter and verse, but these, I regretfully admit, by no means complete the tale.

Nature has so ordered it, that it is the golden grain of autumn and not the green food of summer, that imparts the true flavour to the grain-feeding birds. Cannot we be content with her provision? The few cheepers, fledglings and maturer birds,

so far thus made away with, matter little; but, leaving all other considerations out of the case, it must be borne in mind that the bagging of any running game bird at this season of the year must cause a quite unnecessary destruction of growing crops, and might cause an ill feeling on the part of a peasantry which for many long years now has been friendly to foreigners in the extreme.

Were there no demand for the illicit luxury there would be no supply. Unhappily there are both. Surely this open, illegal traffic suggests some authoritative enquiry?

I am, etc.,

H. T. WADE.

20th August.

To the Editor of the

NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS.

SIR,—In a letter to you on the above subject which appeared in your issue of 21st inst., I inadvertently named the 1st September as the earliest day on which game could be legally sold in Shanghai. My attention has since been called to a French Municipal Notification "La vente du gibier est interdite sur la Concession du 1er Mars au 1er Octobre," but what most concerns this case is the proclamation issued in March last by the Local Authorities, at the instance of the Treaty Power Consuls, which forbids the sale of game "from the 15th March to the 15th September," under pain of certain fines and other punishments. This native declaration accentuates my contention. I have it that pheasants can yet be bought in Hongkew. I know that they are still unblushingly served at tables, on both concessions, where least they might be expected to be seen; while it is a matter of common knowledge that a public restaurant openly gives them a significant place upon its bill of fare.

What I am somewhat anxious to impress upon the public is that for every bird fit to eat in this hot season a dozen birds have been spoiled, which otherwise had been good food in nature's own good time: that the damage done to growing crops is equally great, whether committed by native or foreigner: that the country people have been marvellously tolerant of our thoughtless raids over their cultivated fields, for many a long year past; and that our "gay catering" may be resented one fine day in some unexpected way, from some unexpected quarter, upon some unoffending foreigner, man or woman.

This plea does not appeal particularly to the few who carry and let off a gun out of season; for no sportsman—and with this epithet I am pleased to know that I can associate the names of many Portuguese, Japanese and Chinese lovers of the field—would draw a head on bird or beast during its recognised close time.

I only suggest that as a large part of this community finds a great enjoyment in its up country excursions, it is impolitic in the extreme to imperil that enjoyment by any possibly preventable act. Yet a large element of danger lies in the insensate encouragement of natives to aggravate a peaceful, friendly peasantry by cruel trespass, at a critical season of the year, on their well tended crops.

Our municipal authorities will, doubtless, do their duty in this matter of the sale of game out of season. It is for us, one and all, to render that duty the easier by furthering to the utmost of our power the carrying out of the regulations which our representatives themselves have drawn up for us.

I am, etc.,

H. T. WADE.

24th August.

PATRIARCHAL TENDERNESS.

To the Editor of the
NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS.

SIR,—Yesterday, when I read of a child criminal being brought into Soochow for having, in innocent play, caused the death of his mother, I was, once more ashamed of my country. I am thankful to you for bringing this item to the notice of the English-speaking public in to-day's issue. I would have done it myself had not I been otherwise engaged. The Chinese paper, in addition to what you wrote, said that "from his (the child's) eyes and nose streams of water were flowing," and that "he was in a great fright; so pitiable that all lookers on were moved to compassion."

If publication of this news in a foreign paper could do nothing to save the unfortunate child, it could at least draw the attention of the humane part of this world to this abhorrent law, and may, perchance, influence our patriarchal government to modify it. The nation is now no longer deaf to enlightened opinion.

It is true there is the superstitious belief that the death of the mother by the child's act was the outcome of enmity between them in the previous existence, and the execution of the child was decreed by fate before it was born into the world again; but a nation that believes in such stuff and tolerates cruelty has many more important things to learn than to learn to be strong and rich. In fine, it needs education of the mind and heart.

I am, etc.,

HUMANITY.

24th August.

Poetry.

THE WRECK OF THE ADEN.

I.

A horror of the night-hours, fraught
though brief,
With widening legacies of long despair.
Before the grim rocks of Socotra,
where
The ship drives to her death upon the
reef,
Chased as the tempest hunts the withered
leaf
Without a let or pause. Behind the
tear
Of swirling, blindly angry waves that
bear
The vessel to her doom and man to grief.

A horror of the night. Bewildered band
Torn suddenly from sleep to face a foe
That sweeps with awful might above,
below,
Picking its victims with a callous hand.
Peace to the dead. Howe'er they passed,
we know
That Heaven is as near by sea as land.

II.

A glory in the darkness. Noble souls
That shed fresh lustre on the Briton's
name!
Around the world a pean of acclaim
Your act of dauntless loyalty extols.
A peerless homage, Queen. Among the
doles
That from the earth's remotest corners
came
To swell Victoria's meed of love and
fame
Write Aden's toast the highest on the rolls.
A glory in the darkness. On that wreck,
Where Ocean throned it, tyrant of the
scene,
Claiming a daily tribute from the deck;
Where 'Death might hourly be; where
Death had been;
Half-clad, half-starved, half desperate, they
chide
Despair to do due honour to their
Queen.

SVASTIKA.

Miscellaneous.

DR. MUIRHEAD'S JUBILEE.

A Committee of gentlemen, appointed by the Shanghai Missionary Association, waited upon Dr. Muirhead yesterday afternoon, and presented him with an illuminated address, handsomely bound in morocco. The presentation was made by Mr. C. Thorne. He spoke in well-chosen terms of Dr. Muirhead's long period of residence in Shanghai, of the many valuable services he has rendered the community, of his philanthropy, his kindness of heart, and especially of his earnestness and fidelity as a preacher of the Gospel. Dr. Muirhead replied in an affecting manner. He thanked the deputation for the honour they had done him, and said that as the oldest citizen of Shanghai he regarded it as his home. Anything that he had been able to do for the foreign population was, so to speak, *by the way*. His missionary work was the soul of his soul, and had been from the early day in his life when he first consecrated himself to it.

The Committee had the privilege of seeing the beautiful scrolls presented by the Chinese Christians to Dr. Muirhead.

Early in October a meeting will be held in the Municipal Hall, when a public presentation of Dr. Muirhead's portrait will be made to him. Subscriptions towards the cost may be forwarded to the Hon. Sec. Mr. A. H. Harris.

LOSS OF THE CHEANG HYE TENG.

The *Pekin* brought up from Ningpo on Wednesday eleven men, the survivors of the wreck of the *Cheang-Hye-Teng*, of Penang, which foundered during a typhoon on the 10th instant. Among the survivors is the third engineer, a youth of 18, named Collins, who is the only one of the officers saved.

The *Cheang Hye Teng* was an iron screw steamer of 1,426 tons, gross register, and 170 horse-power, built in 1870, and owned by Mr. Khoo Soh Pek, of Penang. She had been sent to Kobe in the hope of her being sold to the Japanese, but without success, and she was accordingly sent to Moji, where she loaded a cargo of coal for Hongkong, for which port she left on the 6th instant. On the 8th very bad weather was encountered, which grew worse and worse, until, on the 10th the fires had been drowned out and there were about six feet of water in the engine room. The ship by this time had a very heavy list to starboard, and the tremendous seas that constantly broke over her poured in volumes down the after hatch, which was smashed in. As the day wore on it became evident that there was no hope of saving the vessel, and one of the boats was provisioned and got ready for swinging out, but was smashed by a sea. At about half-past three in the afternoon the master, Mr. Scott, shot himself, but none of the survivors could say for what reason. The steamer foundered half an hour afterwards, and the survivors managed to climb into one of the lifeboats, which floated off when the ship went down. There were no provisions in the boat and only two oars, and the eleven survivors drifted about without food or water for over four days, when they were picked up by a Ningpo junk, and taken to that port, where they arrived at noon on Sunday. On arriving there the junk's master refused to allow them to go ashore, and they were unable to land until 10 o'clock next morning, when they proceeded to the British Consulate and reported the wreck to Mr. Playfair, who sent them on here, en route to Hongkong.

These men are believed to be the sole survivors of the wreck, out of a total complement of crew and passengers of 32, of whom four were Europeans.

A RECORD HENLEY.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

Although the Regatta this year contains no such sensational races as the Cornell-Hall race of 1895, nor the Yale-Leander race of last year, yet the meeting was on the whole one of the most interesting, if not the most interesting, one that I have ever seen. Perfect weather, a very high average of rowing, close contests, and in the majority of cases, record times, are enough in themselves to account for the enjoyment of the spectators; and I can safely say that in the opinion of those I have conversed with, it has been a record Henley. The sensational races of 1895 and 1896, were, as I pointed out in a previous letter, mainly sensational, because the American crews competing were first class, in their own style, and the great interest evoked was due to the fact that these crews were using a new style of rowing, with a manifest wish to upset the accepted English style. And the American coaches had repeatedly pointed out that with the American short stroke, their boats travelled fast, as the time tests proved.

It was, in fact, a battle of the styles; the race for the "Grand" was really not to show which was the best crew, but which was the best style of rowing. This year there were no American crews, but there were two Dutch eights, a Dutch and a Canadian four; and a study of their methods compared with the American and English is of great interest.

The two Dutch crews were 1st. The "Triton" boat Club of Utrecht University, which competed for the "Grand"; and 2nd, the Delft Students' "Laga" boat club, which competed for the "Thames." The Dutch four which competed for the "Stewards" were out of the "Triton" eight from Utrecht. These crews were a very good lot to look at; strong and muscular; they pulled well together, and undoubtedly made their boat travel, but as they never went over the course at racing speed, the time tests were practically of no use. Their style of stroke, however, was not approved by the English critics: the main fault being the absence of body swing; they seemed to finish entirely by arm work, the stroke not being pulled through according to the English view. None of the sporting papers ever thought they had a chance; whereas in 1895, they all thought that the Amsterdam crew would win, which they did. The Canadian four though undoubtedly very fast for a certain distance, were never fancied on the Henley Reach. They pull the short, snappy, American stroke, which has so often proved disastrous when matched against a good crew pulling the long stroke of the English crews. One of the first to arrive at Henley was Leander. They have this year built a new Club House, just below the bridge on the Ber's side, a large and handsome building, which is a great improvement to the appearance of the river bank. Their performances on the Reach were very much admired; and their style of rowing was characterised as "finished;" but some cynical persons observed that they were "finished" in more senses than one; and openly expressed the view that they would go down before New College. London had two eights, neither of them first class. Thames had two eights rather worse than London. The other clubs which put in an early appearance were Balliol, Christ Church and Trinity, Oxford; Emmanuel, King's and Hall, Cambridge, all of which were very good eights, and improved daily on the

Henley Reach. New College did not arrive until quite late, neither did Kingston nor the public schools. There were altogether 19 eights competing, and the scene on the river on the Tuesday before the Regatta was exceedingly lively.

The time tests were very puzzling, because the wind, which sometimes blew half a gale, was of a typhoon nature blowing from several quarters at the same time, in different parts of the reach; and some crews which did very bad time were known to be strong and fast. However, by careful watching and allowances, it was arrived at amongst the critics on the tow path that the two crews which stood out for speed were Leander and New. The latter, under very favourable condition had done 6.58, which opened the eyes of many previous believers in Leander. Leander had never done a time test anything like this, but under unfavourable conditions they had done two or three tests which were talked of as "magnificent performances." Amongst the other college eights, the ones that stood out were Hall and Emmanuel from Cambridge, and Christ Church, Trinity and Balliol from Oxford.

The first day's racing was, as usual, a little tame, the time being occupied in weeding out the weak crews; the only good race of the day being the heat between Emmanuel and Balliol. The two Dutch eights both won their heats, but the Dutch four were easily beaten by the Canadians from Winnipeg.

For the second day the two first races drawn were the Delft students against Kingston for the "Thames," and Leander against Utrecht in the "Grand." Both of the Dutch crews were beaten; the Utrecht crew rather badly. On this day I took lunch in the boat-house of Mr. Frank Crisp, which was the headquarters of the Kingston R.C. There I met the members of the Delft crew and their antagonists the Kingston crew, and I had a most interesting talk with one of the Hollanders.

He was a young doctor about to go to Java in some Government employment, and was a very good fellow. In reply to my expressions of sympathy at their want of success, he said: they never expected to win the race; though, had they been luckier in the draw they might have lived to the final heat, "but," he said, "Kingston are too strong for us." Later on he said, "We have not learnt to exhaust ourselves. When we finish a race we are quite fresh, but your English crews, when they finish, can do no more." This remark struck me very much, for it seemed to hit the truth about the English stroke as against the Continental and American. The Dutch cannot exhaust themselves because they have not learnt the body swing—in other words, they have not learnt to fully utilise their strength in the race—in consequence of which they finish comparatively fresh; the Americans, on the other hand, with their bucking stroke, waste their strength, exhaust themselves too soon; and cannot finish at all, as we have seen at Henley two years running.

The other races, on the second day, were most excellent. Emmanuel beating Christ Church for the "Ladies' Challenge." New beating Hall for the "Grand," and Eton beating King's for the "Ladies'"; but good as the sport was on this day, it was reserved for the third day for the "Record Henley."

The race of the day was, of course, the final for the "Grand," between Leander and New: and it is not too much to say that there never has been such a finish before. I was well placed to see it: about sixty yards below the finish, against a pile, so that I had a fine view of the course for about a quarter of a mile. As usual with the final for this Race, the two boats were accompanied all the way up the towing path, by a great crowd of their respective supporters and admirers; and from them,

and from the crowd on both sides of the river, went forth one continuous roar of encouragement and incentive as the two boats passed. When they came into view of our position, they looked to be racing neck and neck, both pulling with perfect steadiness. As they passed me, I was able to note with certainty that Leander was about half a length ahead; and I thought that, so near the finish, they must have the race. But New were spurring, and in that 60 yards, they gained the half length and won the race by two feet, thus literally beating Leander on the post; and it seemed to all of us a wonderful feat. The time was 6.51, which ties the record for this race.

Amongst the other finals, Kingston won their race after a fine tussle with "House," as Christ Church was hailed by the tow-path runners; the Eton Boys beat Emmanuel for the "Ladies" in 7.1, which beats the record for this race by 9 secs., and the Leander four got a revenge by beating New College four for the "Stewards" final. I did not see the finish of this race, but I am told it was a desperate struggle, and that both crews were absolutely done up: "dead settled" as the sporting papers say.

The most striking feature in this Regatta is the great strength of the Oxonians. New College is far better than anything which Cambridge can produce, and two of the best men in the Leander boat, namely Gold and Carr, are actually Magdalen men. On the other hand the Metropolitan Clubs, with the exception of Kingston, are distinctly weak: where are the past glories of the London R.C. and the Thames R.C.?

Henley on Thames, 17th July 1897.

A TRIP TO THE "OLD COUNTRY."

BY J. T. HAMILTON F.R.G.S., F.R.C.I.

III.—THE GREATEST JUBILEE EVER CELEBRATED.

As I am about to set down, in necessarily imperfect language, my impressions of the London celebration of the Diamond Jubilee of our beloved Queen, a pageant unequalled in splendour and magnificence in the whole of the world's history, a telegram is put before me announcing the fact that in Shanghai, at the other end of the world, the event has been properly signalled at the British Consulate, and I cannot help feeling a thrill of pleasure at the news.

Those who witnessed the procession and participated in its concomitant festivities will never, I am sure, forget the marvellous display of genuine-hearted enthusiasm which accompanied it. In it was a spectacle worthy of the greatest nation on the face of the earth, but great as its significance was from a spectacular point of view, it was nothing as compared to the sixty years of mental and moral advancement which it so eloquently represented.

The mind staggers at the stupendous character of the work accomplished during the Queen's reign. Literature, science, art, industry have all advanced by leaps and bounds, and what is more satisfactory still, the condition of the masses of the people has advanced with them. What a galaxy of names the mind conjures up as luminaries in our literary firmament. Tennyson with his exquisitely constructed verse and graceful imagery; Kipling with his truly English grasp of the Empire's greatness; Carlyle with his rough almost savage prose-poetry enunciating a vigorous philosophy; Spencer with his marvellous insight into the evolution of our species; Ruskin with his graceful word-painting and perfect English; Dickens, Thackeray, George Eliot, and Robert Louis Stevenson with their beautiful stories; and a host of others who may truly be said to invest our species with a blaze of intel-

lectual glory, before which even the Elizabethan era fades. In art we have Maclise, Leighton, John Gilbert, Holman Hunt, Herkomer, Phil May with his funninesses, and the lamented Millais. Science during the same period has applied her magic wand with infinite results. Through its thaumaturgic agency the electric current has been applied to the work of transmitting messages, and a girdle has verily been put about the earth in the twinkling of an eye; steam has been introduced for the business of navigation and working of the railway system; scientific and mechanical contrivances, of an infinite diversity of character, have been introduced for our personal comfort, from the locomotive to the motor-car. In medicine what advances have been made through the instrumentality of Lister and others in the attempt to ameliorate human suffering? Labour-saving appliances have lessened the mortality amongst the working classes to an enormous extent, and despite much that is said as to the condition of our masses, it is generally admitted that they are better housed, better clothed, better fed, and better educated, than they were when Her Majesty ascended the throne.

Behind all the splendid pomp and pageantry of the Jubilee procession we saw the glorious march of a nation during sixty years' reign towards a higher state of national perfectibility. The procession itself was grand in the extreme, but the era which it represented shall live for ever in the memory of man as the most brilliant amongst all eras.

And now to the procession itself. We were favoured with what has long since become known in England as Queen's weather. The day was beautifully fine, and whatever clouds there were assumed such fantastic shapes and beauties, that we liked their presence. It would take up too much of your valuable space, Mr. Editor, to describe in detail the whole of that glorious pageant. I was fortunate in securing a seat immediately opposite the Horse Guards, and within a stone's throw of the historic spot where Charles I was beheaded, and one could not help feeling a touch of pity at the sad end of that unfortunate monarch, when contrasted with the whole-hearted enthusiasm which prevailed on the present occasion. The Colonial procession, which led the way in front of the Royal section, came in for uproarious cheering, partly accounted for by the fact that it was led by the most popular officer in Her Majesty's service, namely, Lord Roberts, affectionately known to all Tommy Atkins as "Bobs." There was another reason why the Colonials came in for the lion's share of the applause, and that was because the visitors from our lands across the seas were an outward and visible sign of the deep-seated feeling of love and friendship which exists between the children of the colonies and the old mother-country.

The Canadian troops of Hussars and Dragoons were followed by the carriage of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, whose strong personality has made an excellent impression here. As a native of Australia I may be pardoned for feeling a thrill of pride as the contingents from that country passed, led by the New South Wales mounted troops consisting of Lancers and Mounted Rifles, followed by the Victoria Mounted Rifles in their khaki uniforms, with brown boots and belts. The New Zealand Mounted Rifles, accompanied by a party of giant Maoris, came in for rounds of applause, whilst the Colonial Premiers in their respective carriages were also received with enthusiasm. Then came in quick succession military representatives from all parts of Her Majesty's vast dominions. West Australia, followed by my dear old friends, the Right Honourable Sir John and Lady Forrest, Cyprus, Trinidad, Jamaica, Sierra Leone, Bermuda,

and last, but not least, the drafts of stalwart fellows from Singapore and Hongkong. Then amid the blare of trumpets, the playing of many bands, the shriek of the pibroch and the wild cheers of the vast multitudes, the chief figure in that great pageant drew near. Squadrans of the Horse Artillery, the Life Guards and the Dragoon Guards preceded the royal carriages, and like Macaulay's description of the Tuscan Army, they may be said to have flashed "back the noonday light, rank behind rank, like surges bright of a broad sea of gold." Sixteen carriages full of royalty led the way for our beloved Empress, and as she approached, the feelings of the people were given vent in different ways. Tears at the sight of that venerable figure, who may truly be said to have been made perfect through suffering, were shed by many who remembered the numerous domestic bereavements which have clouded her otherwise happy reign. Others, indeed the majority, gave vent to frantic cheers, which rent the air and must have been heard miles away even to the limits of the great capital. With Her Majesty in the carriage was the Princess of Wales, than whom no one is more idolised in the kingdom to which she came as a blushing bride some thirty years since. The Prince of Wales, in his uniform as a Field Marshal, and the Duke of Connaught rode on one side of the royal carriage, the aged Duke of Cambridge being on the other.

Your readers will have read, before these lines appear, of the impressive ceremony at St. Paul's when the Archbishop of Canterbury, at the conclusion of the service, gave three cheers for the Queen, and of numerous other interesting incidents which took place on that memorable day.

To me, looking at the procession as a concrete whole, it was an embodiment of the greatness of the British Empire, and of the popularity in England of monarchical institutions. Her Majesty has had many receptions during her lifetime, but never could she have known, until now, how near she lives in the hearts of her people, for never has popular enthusiasm been greater or more personally affectionate in its demonstration than on this the sixtieth anniversary of her accession to the Throne of England.

(To be continued.)

CYCLING IN ENGLAND.

English cyclists are just now interesting themselves in a fight with the Railway Companies on the question of their charges for the conveyance of cycles when accompanied by their owners. A test case is being brought by the National Cyclists' Union against the Great Northern Railway Company, to try to establish the fact that cycles are passengers' luggage, and as such, entitled to be carried free, in the same way that a limited amount of ordinary luggage is allowed. Opinions differ very widely as to the probability of success, and some critics condemn the attitude of the N.C.U. as likely to make the railway companies hostile to cyclists, and cause them to frame hampering restrictions in the event of their losing the day. Further, not a few eminent legal men, Sir Richard Webster among the number, who have given their opinion that the N.C.U. has not a ghost of a chance of success. Their plan is to take proceedings at first on their own account, and then to appeal to cyclists at large for subscriptions to carry on the case, if necessary, before the various Courts of Appeal.

A gentleman was fined the other day for lifting his machine and carrying it along a footpath. The law directs that a man shall not ride or drive a cycle on the footpath, and it is generally considered that

the decision of Sir John Budge, the chief metropolitan magistrate, is not a sound one. Wheeling a machine, of course, comes under the heading of driving it, as it is immaterial whether the machine be driven by the pedals or propelled by the hand pushing the saddle, but the carrying of a bicycle is no more an offence than the carrying of a handbag.

The crusade against furious driving proceeds apace, and so do the constables who catch the alleged offenders. The very latest record-breaking constable is a truthful Scot who swore that two cyclists were travelling at the rate of eighteen miles an hour, and that he ran after them and caught them! A constable in all the equipment of his rather heavy uniform, and harnessed by boots which are hardly so fast as a racer's shoe, thus declares that he can bowl along at a pace not approached by the best trained athletes in their prime.

An interesting book has just been published entitled, *War and the Wheel* describing the adventures of Mr. Wilfred Pollock, the War Correspondent of the *Morning Post*, who used the bicycle on the occasion of the recent war in Greece. Although ridiculed at first by his brother correspondents, he had the laugh of them when, by the use of his machine, he was able to anticipate them in the despatch of information to his paper by several hours on more than one important occasion.

A lady has been awarded £50 and her costs, for personal injuries and damage to her bicycle, caused by a collision with a van, driven by an employee of the Great Western Railway. It is only recently that cyclists have been able to obtain redress in the courts, except under very exceptional circumstances, and indeed so commonly have they been treated with scant justice in running down cases, that one of the English papers has been giving way to a sensational correspondence entitled "Official Approval of Murder."

The N.C.U. has decided that it will not allow motor-cycling in any amateur events, open, local, or club, but the professional riders will be able to avail themselves of these speed adjuncts, either in races or records.

The London to Bath and back record has been well beaten by H. C. Horswill, who has ridden the 212 miles on the double journey between the two places in 12 hours 6 minutes 30 seconds, the previous record being to the credit of W. J. Nenson, who in 1895 did the journey in 12 hours 31 minutes 4 seconds. Horswill, by this ride, for the first time scores over a classic route, through he has already achieved a considerable reputation, chiefly as an annihilator of local records in the county of Essex from which he hails.

A military cycling tournament replaced the customary cycle race meeting at Wood Green on Saturday last. It was the first fixture of the kind, and in addition to the Lemon Cutting, Tent Pegging, and kindred military pastimes, there were cycle races entitled Army Championships, and a mock battle around a fort manned by Dervishes, and attacked by Maxims mounted on tri-cycles, and a crowd of cyclist skirmishers. As well as the merely military element, there was a race of two miles for professionals, in which F. W. Chinn beat T. Osborne, and an attempt by A. A. Chase on the five miles' record, held by J. Platt-Betts, which, through a failure by the narrow margin of 2 4-5ths secs., was a very fine exhibition of speed riding, as there was a strong breeze blowing at the time, and under the circumstances to cover five miles in 9 mins. 7 3-5ths secs., was no mean performance.

Tolerance towards the cycle has now become so general that it is with some surprise that the violent diatribe of an anti-cycling Irish priest has been received in Ireland, where, as a rule, cyclists are looked on with exceptional favour. As a rebuff to a doctor who had written to a local paper in strong praise of cycling for women, this church dignitary wrote up to say the pastime was utterly unfit for them, and declared that there is no woman in Ireland that does not feel in her conscience that the use of the cycle is unbecoming, indelicate, and dangerous, and to prove his "dignity" he added that "should any vile thing in the shape of girls dare to exhibit themselves" (it was proposed to hold a ladies' competition) "let the roughs and corner boys chase them off the field, and give them a dip in the pond below the bridge." Most people will agree that the reverend author of this advice is a far fitter subject for a ducking in the horse pond than the lady cyclists of Wexford.

CYCLING ROUND THE WORLD.

THE LOVELY CITY OF LAHORE.

UMRITSAR'S GOLDEN TEMPLE.

FORTIETH ARTICLE.

Umritsar.

We have been annoyed. Long before reaching the land of innumerable gods, when ploughing the sands, and moaning the absence of roads, and kicking every boulder in excess of nasty temper, as though they, poor offending but obstructing bumps of rock were to blame, we cheer-ourselves with the thought, "Ah, wait till we get to India; there shall we find good roads; there are the finest roads in the world."

At Kurachee people said, "Of course, the roads are magnificent; but not just here. You will strike a pukker road at Hyder bad." At Hyderabad it was, "Dear me, no, but from Sukker; yes, from Sukker it's like a bliss d dible." "That's nonsense," said Sukker later on, "there are bits here and there, but—anyway just wait till you reach Behawalpur; there the Grand Trunk road runs right to Lahore."

Did it? Not a morsel. The good road was a cyclists' will-o'-the-wisp. Multan was to provide us with the one thing prayed for. Once there was a flicker of hope, but only a wobbling, undecided flicker. "At Montgomery you reach the Grand Trunk," said all Multan. "At Raiwand it runs right across the railway line," said all Montgomery. "Oh, you must go on to Meeanmeer," said all Raiwand. Patience ceased to be a virtue.

We trundled the railway line till we were sick of it. Wayside signallers, uncertain whether we were a new kind of locomotive or not, waved a red flag, then trifled with the green, and ultimately fluttered the dirty white. Being treated like a goods train ruffled us. There is a dazzling red shirt in our kit. That was our revenge. Goods, passenger, and mail trains could see the red shirt before they saw the cyclist. The whistle shrieked and spluttered, and the brake applied. "That's it, give the poor engine a rest," we said. Necks craned from the windows, and eyes were gambled whether we or the mail would reach the next station first. We are truthful chroniclers, and therefore let us confess that the mail usually won. If, however, the secret history of the Indian North-Western Railway ever comes to be written, there will be an account of mail trains delayed at some stations, five and ten minutes, to allow the passengers to peep at three wild wheelmen, who came

painting behind. But in the prosaic official reports of to-day it will probably be read that those mail trains were retarded by heavy wind and sand-storms.

Eight hundred miles cycling along a railway track was a trifle monotonous. We got weary of the eternal expanse of shaven earth. Even a sunset, with the darkening of a warm purple haze through detectable glimmer till just one bar of scraped lead rested on the edge of the world, was regarded with a blasé eye. Tired of the boiled peas and pasty bread on which Hindus sustain a ricketty manhood, we proclaimed that when we reached civilisation two cows would be slaughtered to make a gastronomical holiday. The Hindus laughed. "Gentlemen, you are funny gentlemen. Other gentlemen make fun; I like you gentlemen." When we had swallowed the piece of sugar we told about England. The Hindus crushed round and looked into our faces as though we were inspired orators. They marvelled at the smallness of England, and the necessity of having it surrounded with a wire fence to prevent tumbling into the sea.

At Raiwand we held an indignation meeting remarkable for its unanimity. The meeting took place on the edge of a railway sleeper, and it was proposed, seconded, and carried by acclamation, that India was a distinct fraud, that three estimable cyclists had been grossly deceived, that the Indian Government should be called upon at once to provide pukker roads, that the country, instead of being sylvan and romantic, was made up of sand, railway lines, and vegetarian Hindus, that—and just then a dust storm came racing along, like a hot, gritty London fog—that is if a London fog can be hot and gritty—and we huddled on the leeward of the railway bank and waited an hour and a half till it was tired. Then in the darkness of night, six miles from Lahore, we at last, certainly and without mistake, reached the Grand Trunk Road. We had pursued it for over eight hundred miles, and we sang the Doolology.

Lahore is a sort of glorified Kensington Gardens. There seem to be no streets, only avenues. Such avenues! The borders are lined with flowers. Such flowers! And all the buildings are palaces. Such palaces! The luscious perfumes of the eventide, strong and fragrant, are like the whiff of a ball-room, hot and clammy, but scented. There is the Mall, where everybody drives up and down in the cooling hours, eyeing everybody else with cold scorn. If you are a deputy assistant secretary to a deputy assistant commissioner it is different, and you may get a nod. Unless you are a Government official, and wear a monocle, and swear at the natives, you cannot be invited to dinner. The sight of sights is on Sunday morning, when the colony goes to the Cathedral. Then is there a glorious contest in gorgeous raiment among the ladies; there are magnificent barouches with magnificent horses, driven by men in startling colours, and with flunkies perched behind in more startling colours—a perfect Lord Mayor's Show of sumptuous silks, wooden dignity, and "the odour of sanctity's eau-de-Cologne," all hastening to beseech the Almighty they may be meek, and their hearts not given to vain-glory-ness.

We went to the native town. It was a swift transit from Kensington Gardens to a conglomerate of Petticoat Lane, Old Cairo, and a rubbish heap. The streets are narrow, packed with a kaleidoscopic throng, the air so thick you can cut it into juuks, and half the flies in creation buzzing about you. When our European carriage met a Hindu carriage—a sort of cross between a Punch and Judy show and a dirty-linen basket upside down, huddled together with four long sticks and two trees as shafts, and generally with four passengers—the entire traffic was blocked for half an hour. The incessant beat of the tomtoms was like a throbbing

nightmare, horrible paintings of horrible men grinned from the walls, barbers were busy shaving a clean line across Hindu heads; fakirs, smeared with mud, which was their only attire except a club and a necklet, scowled when we smiled. At every cressment sat Hindu women in their finery, some beautiful, some not beautiful, greasy-haired, with rings on their fingers and toes, their ears and their noses.

In a courtyard, hung with flowers, and shaded by an awning, was bawling and instrument torturing and noisy applauding. We penetrated. There was the naughty nautch dance in full swing. A crowd of amused men squatted in circles, and they banged one another about to make room for us. The orchestra worked hard and perspired freely. The nautch girl, fat and ungraceful, also perspired freely. She was not languid, or poetical, or dreamy. She was just a stout woman, very hot. So we came out of the oven and found the blistered streets cool by contrast. A bundle of wonderfully gabled houses split the rush of the mob in twain. On a dirty board was a dirty notice announcing the quarters of "The Lahore Theosophical Society." Over the way one read "The freshest and most patent medicines sold here."

The Hazuri-bagh, the summer residence of potential nawabs in former days, was delightful. One could breathe poetry. There was the rustle of the thick-leaved trees; the marble retreats, gleaming white; the spiral pillar, and the dainty running intai floral designs; the blue and the gold and the green plaques; the shimmering mirrors, exquisite and graceful. The white stone and golden top of the Ranjit Singh's tomb showed over the courtly banyan trees. We sauntered among the roses and in the shade of the palms, climbed the steps of the red mosque, and stood in the marble hall where rest the ashes of the nawab and those of his four queens and seven concubines and two doves, all sacrificed on the funeral pyre. Not a sound from Lahore, though so near, trespassed on the silence. There were only some chattering crows in the high branches. It was a place for a man to rest in and be contemplative and grow wise. Looking over the wall one saw Hindu boys playing cricket, and under the trees an English girl, bloused and straw-hatted, was spinning on her bicycle.

The Fort is close at hand, sturdily walled and buttressed. At the gate a stodgy Thomas Atkins, who spoke a mixture of Knightsbridge, Somerset, and Brecon Welsh, greeted us. "Want to see th' fort, gents. Hall right, y' u jist foller me. You're ridin' rhan the bloomin' world, ain't yer? Strike me, but yer run um, look yer. Zum folkses likes work. Not me; no bloomin' fear; Hi tykes hit heavy. Hindia! Oh, Hindia's hall right, look yer; that is, fur 'em as likes it. It's a fair cough-drop a' times; a corker, reg'lar knock-hout, 'help me. Yer sees them pictures on 't wall, ampagorous helephants all a'-fiting. Ain't that 'un on 't right given 't other chappies socks. That bloke in front salutin', him on 't bridge; he's a Syk; fair maulers in fight n'; they can bruise, catch yer in 't win! an' knock yer silly. But I don't, look yer, reckon much on 't natives. Las' week they had a Rummydum or a Rummyzam, some religious-like, and there was near some upsetting' o' apple-carts. We hed our guns ready an' 'ud give 'um beans hed they strted banky-pankyng. Now, look here, gents. You sees that bridge. Well, when th' British cops this ere fort the rajah-johnnie he jimps it an' gets corpsed. An' them Syk soldiers won't do a blessed bit o' guard duty at night—says as how the rajah's ghost is allus about. So we Henglish, lo k you, hes ter keep guard. Seen the rajah? No-sich luck. If I saw him I'd make 'im show his kit. Fine view! Yes, gents. If yer

wants, to yer can climb them there chimbleys."

"You mean the minarets of the mosque?" was hinted.

"I don't know what yer call 'em; I calls 'em chimbleys."

He was a garrulous little fellow, was Mr. Atkins. As we looked over the armoury he imparted curious information about antique implements of war. He stuck a dumpy fist on a dumpy thigh, and, rubbing the back of his other dumpy fist across his forehead, said, "It's warm, gents, an' when it's warm it gets thir-ty like. There's the canteen, an' there's no objection, mind yer, to yer goin' in; that is if you've a mind." We hadn't a mind, and preferred inspecting the wonderful marble audience chambers, finer than anything we saw in Persia. We climbed to the top of the tower and looked far over the land of the Punjab, and listened to a naïve description of fort defence.

"The nytives hever tyke this 'ere fort!" said our guide, with a touch of derision.

"Look yer, we has bloomin' pervisions fur twelve bloomin' years. Tyke hit; I'd like ter see 'em."

One afternoon we spent in the silent recesses of the Shalimar Gardens, a kind of oriental Versailles, with big basins of fountain-spouted water, and gurgling cascade, and twittering birds, and notices that you will be prosecuted if you pluck the flowers—English flowers—sweet Williams, pinks, velvety pansies, foxgloves, wallflowers, cornflowers, nigella, and weeds. In the evening we rode over to Umritsar, the St. John's Wood of Lahore, only thirty-six miles away, and we covered the distance in an easy three hours, with a slice of moon, which is better than no moon, as our lantern. For we travelled that most blessed of all roads, the Grand Trunk, and our hearts grew exceedingly light. The road is made of konker, and it nearest English equivalent is concrete. Heavily foliaged trees shelter the way, and on either side are tracks for the bullock waggon, also shaded. We could sing a psalm on the Grand Trunk.

There is plenty to see in Umritsar—including a shocking statue of Queen Victoria, with a crown stuck jauntily and unroyally on one side—but after you have seen all you only remember one thing. That is the Golden Temple of the Hindus. When we saw it we recanted our heterodox and unappreciative opinions about India. We made our pilgrimage in the early morn, when the air was sweet and the natives were busy with their ablutions, smearing themselves with caste marks, tying charms about them, and getting stuffed with holiness to last another twenty-four hours. We sallied through the packed and busy streets. There was a big red stone tower, and we were welcomed into a room with rich carpets and gaudy settees, our shoes were whisked off, and our feet encased in gold bedizened slippers of green and blue, and we were asked to unload any cigars or cigarettes, for it was desecration to carry tobacco within the temple.

Advancing in the silver light of the early day, we came to a row of steps, where a stream of chocolate-stained humanity was tumbling down with a confusion of tongues and such a bewilderment of attire. A lake lay in front, surrounded by walks of white marble. A white marble archway, carved and embossed and with dark recesses, flaunted two orange banners. A pier of white marble pushed to the centre of the lake, and on a marble floor, and resting on a shelf of marble, was the Golden Temple, a square building, ornate, embossed, with eccentric chiselling and slim pillars, delicate eaves overhanging trellised tracery, ranges of lotus-flowered towers, and all of gold—pure, dazzling, gleaming, glorious gold; an oriental heaven, a scene that spell-bound the imagination.

At the bottom of the steps was a twisted tree the worshippers touched with the tips

of the fingers, then putting the fingers to the forehead. Beggars and lamed and blind sat in rows with outstretched palms moaning prayers. Hundreds of Hindus were at the water's edge splashing in the holy flood. We went with the surge, and were the only people not carrying roses.

The great arch with the orange banners had a gateway of sheeted silver on one side, and the other was of sandal-wood inlaid with ivory. As the crowd grew dense the perfume of the roses hung like a mist in the air. At the door of the temple all prostrated and touched the ground with their foreheads. We entered and stood on one side.

In the centre lay a silken sheet piled with roses. A string of white-robed priests sat around, with the chief priest at one end near the sacred book of the Sikhs, and on the covering rested wreaths of red roses. An orchestra with soft stringed instruments played pathetic and sense-stealing sensuous melodies, and often the players joined in with the low hum of their voices. The walls were of rich red with vivid green chased with gold, and broken into gothic vaults overhead. A damask embroidered awning swung above the priests. The crowd, demure, fantastic, earnest, walked round the priests and threw their offerings of roses into the lap of the silken cloth. It was beautiful—this offering of the blushing flowers, the reverence, the meekness, the atmosphere of mysticism, the lavish resplendent wealth, the impressive music, the fascinating easternness of it all. We came away speaking no words.

But what a jar we received at the outer gate! There was a horde of vultures that swung upon us. "Now sahibs, can't I sell you some curios, some fine knives; here's a knife that a Pathan committed a murder with at Peshawar; it's five rupees more than the others." "Photographs, sahibs, won't you buy my photographs?" "Will you come, sahibs, and see some Indian carpets? I don't want you to buy them, just to see them; do sahibs, come; really I don't want you to buy, just to see." And so on. We tried to coax them away with friendly sayings; they were confounded nuisances. But it was easier to coax an earthquake with the historic bun than coax those fellows. We said, "Well, tomorrow we will come and buy all your goods." Which was a lie, for we are leaving Umritsar this afternoon.

NOTES BY THE WAY.

REACHING THE CITY OF THE GREAT MOGUL.

FORTY-FIRST ARTICLE.

Delhi.

There was a fat stock fair at Umritsar, and when we left it was necessary to wheel down the adjoining road. Cows, buffaloes, horses, asses and goats blocked the path and knocked up billows of choking dust. There was hoarse brawling and shrill squealing, and great poles were banged over the bony rumps of lazy kine, and the tom-tom was thumped and there were shows with shocking, reprehensible pictures outside the canvas and gyrating nautch damsels on the other side. Sellers of nasty, sticky sweetmeats yelled till they were purple; the bargaining was heated and lusty; not far away was the irrepressible star-bespangled banner denoting where someone was giving away watches and gold chains, and rings and cuff studs out of undiluted love for the Hindu.

We tugged at our bicycle bells till they grew hot with friction, almost caused the death of a shrivelled, parchment-skinned native, who reminded one of a resurrected Rameses II., and nearly came to grief ourselves by bowling into stoical buffaloes who were as staid and immovable as a string of equity judges. We had a lively twenty minutes.

When we got free we took it out of our bicycles by making them spin at fifteen miles an hour. But this took it also out of us, and when we reached the village of Wazirbhatta we decided to stop for the night. With trouble we found the rest bungalow. A little tin of oil provided the dimmest of lights so that, just as in the times of gentle Elia, a man could not tell the effect of his joke till he put out his hand in the gloom and felt his neighbour's cheek. We scoured the hamlet for food. "Well this is a benighted hole," we declared to a Hindu who thought we were humorous fellows to require anything to eat, "isn't there a civilised European about here?" "No, sahibs, there are no Europeans." "But didn't we see some ladies in European costume up the road, just now?" "Oh, sahibs they're not civilised Europeans; they're English missionaries."

A formidable river threatened us the next morning, the Beas. It is one of the five big rivers of the Punjab. It was probably not to blame, yet we did think it curious to find a river without any water. However, there was plenty of sand. We didn't tackle the sand, but crossed by the railway bridge which, had there been an Irishman in the trio, might have been described as made up of planks that were not there. It provided opportunity, anyway, for praising one another's acrobatic feats. Then, when we reached the good road on the other side, we whizzed. But even the Grand Trunk road had drawbacks. Travelling was so smooth and unruffled that exciting incidents had no chance. There was not even a pebble to be magnified into a boulder, or a two-inch hole that might be twisted into a precipice. Indeed, the road was monotonously excellent. The sighting of a lady lounging—or perhaps she was reclining—on a long chair under a verandah, and the encountering of youngsters with flaxen hair and blue eyes, intimated civilisation at last. A huge board proclaimed "The Empress Gardens," and a gentleman under a wide topi and astride a large horse said that if we went straight on, took the third turning to the right, the second to the left, and bore southwards, and were sure not to mistake two private lanes for main thoroughfares, but wheel to the right again, and, where we met two roads took the left one, we would see the dak bungalow. On the way we quarrelled as to the route. Appealing to a native he said we were all wrong. Jullundur city lay in the opposite direction. We didn't want Jullundur city! Then what did we want, he enquired. We said we wanted Jullundur cantonment. He said he didn't know of it, but suggested that if we went ahead we would be sure to reach something. We agreed that it was likely. In three-quarters of an hour we triumphantly discovered we had been circling round the dak bungalow.

As we stood drilling it into the servants that although there were only three of us, lunch was to be prepared as though there were six, we were spied at through the reed curtains by worthy Englishmen and Englishwomen also staying at the bungalow. We knew this, not by intuition, but by the gleam of white garments. When a remark was made about inquisitiveness there was a sudden withdrawal. One of us said, "Thank you," very loud.

A crooked old stick of a man attended us. He had little learning, but great faith, and he asked us to make out our own bill. We did, and when he got the money he looked at it in the palm of his hand and then proposed *baksheesh*. When he learned that half was for entertainment and half for his services he nearly rolled himself into a ball, salaaming his gratiude. He threw a curious eye upon the bicycles, and when Lunn was inflating his Dunlop he asked, "Sahib, why for you steam your horse?"

We rushed through a land glowing with ripe corn and past sturdy, fortified series

that somehow hinted baronial strongholds of the fourteenth century. Near a place called Philour we saw a high English dog-cart coming towards us, driven by a man in a "blazer." He had a lady in a soft blue blouse by his side. The morsel of "show-offness" in our composition soared to the top, and we scorched past the dog-cart like the often quoted greased lightning. The vehicle was swung round and tore after us. A backward glance revealed the lady signalling with ardour. We dismounted, and when the dog-cart came up we were greeted in pleasant Lowland Scotch, "Gentlemen, you'll no be running away like that. We've been reading about you in the papers, and you just fling past us like the wind. Will you no stop here the night?" We pladed haste and a certain deviation. But Mr. Rundle, who is the district police inspector, and has three hundred men in training for police duty, urged a halt of ten minutes and a visit to Philour Fort, where he lived. Mrs. Rundle insisted. So we went to the wonderful fort and heard stories about snorting old Ranjid Singh and his conflicts with the British, and we climbed to the highest point of the tower and glanced over the prolific Punjab to the ridge of the Simla hills, and we sat under the trees and gossiped and satisfied thirsts; and then there was a hurried dinner-party and the hours slipped by and it was near midnight when a long Sikh, with the ends of his beard tied behind his ears, showed the way with a lantern over the disjointed Sutlej bridge, and while a slice of the moon crawled on its back down to the horizon we ran over to Loodhiana—which we called Loodhiana Loo for no other reason save that we had been dining out—and raised a united cry of "Qui hi?" which, in free translation, means "Isn't there any rgue about to come and attend to my wants that I am too lazy to attend to myself?" and we dragged long-suffering servants from their rest.

"What time shall I bring *chota hazri* in the morning, sahibs?" the attendant asked.

"*Chota Hazri* be hanged; who is he?—the barber, or someone to whom we owe money? Tell Mr. *Chota Hazri* we're busy, that we have to see our lawyers to draw up our wills and mustn't be disturbed!"

"But, sahibs," said the attendant with straightened eyebrows, "it's usual for *chota hazri* to be brought."

"Well, we're unusual chaps, and intend to depart from universal custom!"

"You don't understand, sahibs. *Chota hazri* is—"

"We know quite well what *Chota Hazri* is; he's a nuisance. Now, like a good kind Hindu, do you mind clearing out and permitting us to go to sleep?"

"Sahibs, you are the first sahibs who have refused *chota hazri*."

"*Chota Hazri* is an estimable gentleman, no doubt, but we don't want him dangling round us in the early morning asking the customary idiotic questions, where we've come from, where are we going, and how do we like India and—anyhow, you toddle—run away and play at ball in the verandah—and tell Mr. *Chota Hazri* that if he shows his coffee-coloured face inside that door he'll require a medical man."

The attendant sidled off. When he got to the door he turned and gravely said, "Sahibs, *chota hazri* isn't a sahib; it's breakfast!"

We left Loodhiana very early the next morning.

We sniffed for adventure the whole of the day and were disappointed. But it was hot, so hot that our shadows, which had been accustomed to run alongside and keep us friendly company, slunk right under the bicycles in the middle of the day, and refused to move till the sun showed signs of descending. We got a Mahomedan to kill the three toughest fowls he could find in

the Punjab province, and we had a coup d'oeil of hours' occupation in dissecting them and demonstrating that there could be no fowls like them in the wide world. We asked for milk, but the man in boiling it burnt it. We asked for tea and were given a peculiarly-flavoured concoction of soap-suds and brown polish. By that time it was thought well to move on. The Mahomedan came into the roadway and asked to be remembered. We said we would always remember him.

We ran into Umballa—a great military centre, and laid out on the T-square plan—very hot and very dirty. There is only one good hotel in the place, and we went to it. The lady proprietress eyed us askance—who could these grimy beggars be, and why were they wearing disreputable shoes, and where were their coats, and why were their shirts open at the breast, and the sleeves tucked up above the elbows, and were they quite respectable sort of men to have in her respectable hotel?—all the questions, we saw, flashed across her mind. We asked for rooms. "Well—er—," she began. Then she halted, and then she exclaimed, "Why you must be the three travellers!" We confessed. "Of course," she added, "you can have rooms and you'll be wanting hot baths and dinner prepared, and—" and away she bustled giving orders and muttering. "Of course, of course! deary me; and you've ridden all the way; my! what a journey; of course, of course, I ought to have known; haven't I been reading about you in the papers; of course, of course, deary me!"

On the plain outside Umballa, where a Hindu temple stands, we saw hundreds of natives holding festival. They had come in their bullock-carts, and formed little encampments under the trees, and they were all merry, and busy cooking food; and while the men walked about in dozens singing, the women in brilliant finery rested in the bullock-carts and chatted. It was a marvellous scene, which in the dazzling light seemed hardly real, the colouring was so rampant. We stayed but a little while. We fled to the hotel to escape the heat, and divided the time between the bath and iced drinks. The sunshine lay so thick on the ground, one could almost shovel it up. It was sultry.

Rising early morning and late evening, was the general order. But now and then the halting-place in mid-day was far, and we had to swing along with the thermometer at 130 degrees. The hot air struck us in blasts. The glare was so strong that the sapphire blue was bleached out of the sky, and only a metallic expanse left.

It was on one of these days that we dropped exhausted, and with mouths like pots of glue, in front of a government rest bungalow. The place was locked, and the Hindu caretaker produced a notice that no one was allowed the use of the bungalow without official permission. This was too bad. We rummaged our pockets to find an imposing document, an old judgment summons, or something with the lion and unicorn on it. As the Hindu could not read English, he was easily deceived. But as a sort of punishment for our deception, we could get nothing to eat, and when evening came we started on a fifty miles spin, rather hungry. Speeding along the tree-fringed highway, with a zephyr breeze fanning us, we gloried in the aroma of rich lilac, and wafts of dreamy musk scent. We whirled past groups of picturesque Hindus, lumbering, wooden-wheeled bullock-carts, draped and joggling dandies. Thousands of dainty squirrels sprang up the trees at our approach; a herd of beautiful antelopes frisked and bounded into the jungle; once we disturbed a leisurely wild boar, and sent him scurrying among the deep vegetation; parrots and a dozen other gay fostered birds fluttered among the branches; while families of monkeys holding conferences by the wayside, moved leisurely twenty yards off, and then sat

looking at us with amazed, open-jawed stare; forty or so gazing buffaloes took fright; and there was such a clattering pell mell stampede as they fell and dived into the thicket that we dismounted, and moved to the shelter of a big-ribbed tree, in case they might think of charging us.

In the middle of congratulations on the pleasantness of the evening, a clammy steaming hot wind came along. A haze settled on the land, and we perspired although in a Turkish bath. First we panted and then we gasped. All energy went from the limbs, and we were languid and faint. In an hour, however, we met a cool current, and our thankfulness was great. Villages increased in number. All the natives were out enjoying the clear night, and we ran among them wending, and twisting away like trick-riders among bottles. Gad! ruins hove in view, dark and owl-hibited; also a spick and span gas-works. We were on the confines of Delhi, the capital of the east, the city of the great Mogul, famous for its wonders and its wars.

We got hold of a man to lead us to our hotel. "Wherefrom you come, sahibs?" "London!" we replied, laconically. "We were famished, and not much given, at the moment, to speech. "Where you go after Delhi?" he pursued. "London!" we answered. "You come by train?" "No!" "How you come?" "Biked it?" "What, sahibs?" "On bikes!" "What are bikes?" And so on. We told him at last we were riding round the world. He did not say anything. He was speechless. He was surprised. He leaned against a wall. He was just in the position of the famous gluttonous old hen, who, after breakfasting on two yards of boot-lace, found a boot at the other end.

THE WONDERS OF DELHI.

SCENES IN AGRA.

FORTY-SECOND ARTICLE.

Agra.

An enterprising syndicate should at once secure Delhi, transport it to Earl's Court, and turn the Chandni Chauk into a nick-nack bazaar. Fourpenny cups of tea could be served in the Dewan-i-Khas by damsels from the East—the sylvan regions of the Mile End Road, probably. The Dewan-i-Am and its marble throne would serve as a make-shift band-stand for Lieut. Dan Godfrey and his Coldstream instrumentalists. The Jumma Musjid would be improved with strings and curves of fairy lamps. The rattle of lager beer glasses would be pleasant; the occasional shouts of German waiters, "Two Scotch and sodas, one bitter, one lemon squash!" would come as a pleasant relief. Better than all, there would be the lovely frocks and cherry blossom imparted by West Kensington maidenhood to give the place "tone" and to prevent any one from falling into the mistake that he was really on the banks of the Jumna. Delhi is full of possibilities.

Yet it is the most uncertain-minded of cities in the world. It is like a fidgety girl that will first sit here, then there, then somewhere else, and fifty square miles of ground and twenty thousand ruins tell where it has rested. The modern Delhi is like the fidgety girl grown up—charming, capricious, imperial. But also like so many grown up and charming ladies, Delhi is a city with a past, and her name is different from what it was. Delhi was formerly Indrapécha. The *Bhagavat Purana* says that Yudhishtira was the first king of Indrapécha. His family were the sovereigns for a full hundred generations, and then there came the Gautamas, and the Mayuras—in whose time Rajah Pala was conquered by Vikramaditya of Ujjain in Malwa—and there were the

Tumars and the Chohans and many others whose names are not in the pleadings. Delhi, we agreed, would be all right without its past.

Taking Delhi, however, as it is, we found it romantic, picturesque, and for eastern brilliance, all our fancy pained it. The great street is the Chandni Chauk, ever presenting a bustling scene—a sort of Indian Cheapside, Hindus and Mahomedans in the flimsiest of white clothes, swinging along; oxen waggons, camel teams and gharris taking the place of railway vans, omnibuses and hansom cabs; the Golden Mosque with its prostrating worshippers doing duty for Bow Church; the low-roofed stalls and the side walks crammed with curious, uninviting eatables, and the square, roomy big shops, with carloads of worked silver, Cashmere shawls, Punjab armour, gazes from Basmopore, lacquer from Sind, baskets from Shekawatteo—altogether such a confusion of sights and sounds that the brain grew muddled.

When we were religiously inclined we toiled in the blazing sunlight up the steps of the Jumma Musjid, an immense red sandstone structure, with a dull dignity, where on a Friday the Delhi Mahomedans gather to do obeisance, facing Mecca. There are sweeping alcoved galleries round the courtyard, the flooding of light into the quadrangle, where, by the fountain of holy water, the faithful are always washing their mouths or their feet or their arms; has a shimmering, hazy effect, and the three mighty domes of the whitest of white marble streaked with inlaid black marble, loom like mountains of glory. There are nine hundred slabs of marble where nine hundred of the wealthiest Moslems weekly stretch themselves, while the nine thousand and ninety-nine of their poorer brethren keep back and prostrate themselves as they can.

With ceremony and the kissing of the ground our infidel eyes—for a consideration—were permitted to view the treasures of treasures; a faded Cufic parchment written by Ali, the son-in-law of the Prophet, another dingy manuscript, written by his grandson, a block of granite bearing the footmark of the Prophet—demonstrating that he must have been a tolerably heavy man to have made a deeper impression in granite than the average being would in sand—a moth-eaten sandal from Medina, and resting in a cradle of jasmine, precious beyond compare, one solitary red hair plucked from the beard of the Prophet!

The Fort had something to show besides unscalable walls and cannon-guarded gateways, and British soldiers kicking a football about in the evening. This was the court of the Great Mogul. The Moguls had a gorgeous time. The Dewan-i-Am, the Audience Hall, wide proportioned, lofty pillared, has the throne in the centre. It is a mass of marble, with rare stones, mosaic-work and canopied with grooved marble. It is splendid. Austin de Bordeaux made it for the great Mogul, Shah Jehan, and if Austin had not defrauded European princes with glass instead of jewels and paste for pearls, so that he lied to the east for safety, Shah Jehan would never have had so fine a throne or such magnificent monuments. In the eyes of history he would not have been the great Mogul he is accounted.

At the back of the Dewan-i-Am is the Dewan-i-Khas. It is Aladdin's palace. Half hid by cypress and embowered in a rose-garden, it is the realm of luxurious loveliness. It is a sumptuous hall, entirely of marble, exquisitely chased, delicately inlaid with multi-tinted stones; embossed with gold, elegant with *pietra dura* design, the floor of marble; the fretted screen of marble. We forgot the proper adjectives, and accepted the observation of a Tommy Atkins that it was "a fair knock-out."

But Shah Jehan was poetical. In Persian characters is inscribed "If there be a Paradise on earth, it is this, it is this!"

In the middle rises the marble stand where rested the Peacock Throne, taken away by invading Persians a hundred and fifty years ago, and so studded with brilliant gems that its value has been calculated from two to six million pounds, according to the rough reckoning of each individual beholder. The royal bath is a vision of luxury. Looking over the black cypress tops is the beautiful little Mosque of Pearls.

The rich morning sun glows through the creamy marble, the heavy odour of flowers fills the nostrils, the song of birds is heard in the branches. There is an abandonment of the senses, drowsy, lulling enchantment—you can almost see the Mogul on the embroidered crimson velvets, and hear the sweet singing of the singers. If there be a Paradise on earth, it's this, it is this, it is this!

We gorged ourselves with wonders. Wandering beyond the walls, Delhi's past became so obtrusive that we succumbed. Delhi seemed to say, "All my existence up to this very day has been my past" and there was no arguing the point. So we went abroad and inspected cracked pillars. We visited the Killa Kohna Mosque, with its peculiar façades and pendentive vaulting and scrolled calligraphy running up the arches. Three hundred and more years ago an emperor brought his library here. He was something of an astronomer and it was while waiting for the rising of Venus that he tumbled downstairs and broke his neck. It would be difficult to say how many mausoleums we entered, and how many laudatory cenotaphs we were invited to read. We didn't read them, because we couldn't. But we did read a diatribe against vaccination, plastered against the side of a Hindu temple. It was very stirring, but in the position rather ridiculous.

Now if the enterprising syndicate had taken Delhi to Earl's Court, it is more than likely that a bit of Agra might have been pushed into a convenient corner, and then three cyclists would have gone by the Underground Railway and visited the chief sights of the world in an hour and a half, and been saved riding hundreds of miles in a furnace heat. As it was we rode the hundreds of miles in a furnace heat. As it was we rode the hundred and twenty mile from Delhi to Agra, developing nothing but muscles and gigantic thirsts. On our way we dropped into villages and besought for water. In ten minutes a hot pea-soup liquid was brought. We were not permitted to touch the vessel in which it was carried. A crude earthenware jar had to be rummaged from somewhere, and after drinking we had to throw it on the ground and smash it. No Hindu would touch with the tips of fingers what had been polluted by foreign lips.

Agra is another Delhi—with a difference. The bazaars are quieter, and one day we got mixed up with a wedding procession of decorated camels and caparisoned steeds, and folk in circus-king finery, and thirty men thrashing and thumping their tom-toms unmercifully. We were in the thick of it, and seemed to be regarded as part of the show.

The palaces of the Moguls in the fort showed that these gentlemen took life with artistic voluptuousness. Someone has written somewhere that they designed like Titans and finished like jewellers. It is so. To write glowingly of the marvels savours of exaggeration to the easy-chair Briton, and yet the difficulty is not to restrain admiration but to induce one's pen to be sufficiently prolific in dazzling, jewelled words. One of these days, when we get home and return to civilisation and starch-d-shirts, we will be asking ourselves whether we really did see the glories of the Moguls, whether they were not the outcome of dreamy fancy, good dinners and green chartreuse? The scene slowly sails by like a surpassingly elegant picture, and a rhapsody dances in the mind.

There was the Pearl Mosque, airy and pure, veined marble, quivering with loveliness, where powerful kings prayed while their ladies were hid behind fret-screens. There is the spacious Public Audience Hall, and we stood where Aurangzeb sat. Digging downstairs and upstairs we roamed through the zenana. But the voice of the three hundred court ladies was still. Curious were we to find one set of apartments all in the Hindu style, with dragon-shaped buttresses, and low relieved ceilings and strange brackets. And when we inquired we learned that Akbar had three chief wives, one Moslem, one Hindu and one Christian. These were the chambers of the Hindu wife.

We rested in the carved Hall of Private Audience. It was beautiful; it was a miracle of loveliness. We looked towards the Jumna and sighed with exquisite joy. Did we not see where the hours sat in the alcoves and angled for golden fish in the fountain below, the little Gem Mosque where the royal ladies worshipped; did we not climb the Jasmine Tower and look out from the Golden Pavilion; stroll in the great garden and linger in the Palace of Mirrors, where in former days cascades jumped over tiny lamps while antanas dabbled in pleasant bath? Did we not penetrate the dark passages that stretch six miles beyond the city, and with flaring torches above our heads, descend to a clammy cavern where ladies who had lost the favour of their lord were stranded and pitched into a black pit? Did we not wander over tessellated pavements, between Saracenic columns, and peer through marble screens that had wonderful traceries? Did we not dangle our feet from the famous Black Throne of the Moguls which was so frozen with horror when a Jat sat where Akbar had ruled that it cracked and shed blood?

We went to the Taj Mahal. Nothing in this world is so beautiful. It is the triumph of art. Shah Jehan built it for his wife, Mumtaz Mahal, the pride of the Palace. He loved her with a strange fervour, and the east-rn world was searched for treasure to glorify her mausoleum. And when it was finished he began a silver Taj. Then his son deposed at the idea of the kingdom being impoverished, made him prisoner for seven years, and the old man died with dull eyes resting on the tomb of his wife. There is a superb gateway to the Taj, of red stone crested with a row of marble cupolas. We stood in the archway. A long strip of fountain ran in front, broken in the centre by a marble balcony. At the sides were ranges of date-trees, cypress, and beds of rich bloom lay at their feet, splashes of red and purple and puce and vermillion and pink.

Beyond was the Taj, a monument of white marble—nothing but white marble. At first one did not comprehend. A fear crept into the heart that the loveliness was evanescent. After a time one saw it was the epic of architecture. The graceful sweep of the dome, the majesty of the minarets, the tracery of the kiosks, were solid and not visionary. We went towards the Taj, climbed the white marble stairs, stood on the white marble terrace, and went into the sublimed light of the hall. It is gloomy with soft religious gloom, but the chastened beauty of the tombs of Shah Jehan and his beloved wife, is chastened and impressive. They are poems in marble. All round are inter precious stones, the heavy jasper from the Panjab, the deep-toned cornelian from Broach, bright turquoise from Tibet, agate from Yemen, lapis lazuli from far Ceylon, coral from Arabia, garnet from Bundelcund, pale diamond from Poona, crystal from Malwa, onyx from Persia, chalcedonia from Colombo, conglomerates from Gwalior and Sipri—the whole world searched to adorn the Taj.

But to see the Taj aright it must be seen when the moon is at the full. We so saw

it. We sat in the cool gardens while the moon illuminated with clear-penetrating light the glory of the earth. We entered the mausoleum again and the old Mohammedan in charge sang, and the echo, reverberated and softened, and it was like the melody of an organ. And we sat out again and looked and wondered. We wondered whether Earl's Court, and underground railways and evening newspapers were not the dream and poetry and mystery, and moonlight the reality!

JOHN FOSTER FRASER.

S. EDWARD LUNN.

FRANK H. LOWE.

THE HONGKONG ASSESSMENT.

Mr. A. Chapman's report on the assessment for 1897-98 is published in the *Gazette*. We make the following extract:—

By Order of His Excellency the Governor in Council I have made a new valuation of the City of Victoria and the Hill District.

The result of the new valuation is that the rateable value of the City of Victoria is now \$3,444,514 as against \$3,247,726 last year (1896-97), being an increase in rateable value of \$196,788 or 6.05 per cent.

The rateable value of the Hill District has been raised from \$107,850 last year (1896-97) to \$117,435, being an increase of \$9,585 or 8.88 per cent.

The rateable value of the Kowloon Peninsula has increased \$8,130 or 2.55 per cent., on account of new and improved tenements, and owing to a similar cause there is a small increase of \$254 in the rateable value of the Hongkong villages.

The rateable value of the whole colony is now \$4,040,502, an increase, as compared with last year's assessment, of \$214,757 or 5.61 per cent.

During the period from 1st July, 1896, to 1st June, 1897, interim valuations have been made as follows:—

IN THE CITY OF VICTORIA.

314 new tenements, rateable value ..	\$119,465
41 improved tenements, rateable value ..	\$26,745
Replacing assessments, amounting to ..	21,725
	5,020
	\$124,485
95 assessments cancelled, tenements pulled down ..	32,754
Increase in city of Victoria ..	\$91,731

IN THE REST OF THE COLONY.

53 new tenements, rateable value ..	\$11,848
6 improved tenements, rateable value ..	\$1,680
Replacing assessments, amounting to ..	909
	771
	\$12,619
65 assessments cancelled, tenements pulled down ..	2,759
Increase in the rest of the colony ..	\$9,860

The total number of tenements affected by interim assessments being 574 and the increase in rateable value \$101,600.

The number of reported vacant tenements in the city of Victoria inspected under section 35 of the Rating Ordinance is, I am pleased to report, smaller, having averaged about 170 monthly against 250 last year.—*Hongkong Daily Press*.

CLARKE'S WORLD-FAMED BLOOD-MIXTURE.—"The most searching Blood-Cleanser that science and medical skill have brought to light." Sufferers from Scrofula, Scum, Kuzema, Bad Legs, Skin and Blood Diseases, Pimples, and Sores of any kind are solicited to give it a trial to test its value. Thousands of wonderful cures have been effected by it. Sole everywhere at 2s. 9d. per bottle. Beware of worthless imitations and substitutes.

THE CANADIAN GOLD DISCOVERIES.

MARVELLOUS REPORTS.

All the pathos and tragedy which follow up the discovery of gold and the "rush" to the new El Dorado are now to be found in the North-West Territory of Canada bordering upon American Alaska. Excited by the reports of the rich discoveries of the metal which exercises such a fascinating influence upon humanity, men—and women, too—are flocking to the mysterious region, almost frenzied by the accounts of fortunes made with romantic rapidity, and undismayed by the warnings of the dangers and privations they will have to encounter. What a magnificent opportunity for the novelist, for a modern "gold rush" presents some features which are altogether different from its predecessors.

Although there is a vagueness about the map of the country towards which so many faces are now turned as to have provoked one traveller to assert that they are not worth the ink with which they are drawn, generally speaking it may be described as the Upper Yukon region. The tourists who every summer crowd the excursion steamers that sail up the long stretches of the inland passage to Alaska find their view to the north and east everywhere limited by a range of snowy peaks, silhouetted like card-board against the sky. On the one side is a narrow strip of mainland and on the other a thousand islands, large and small, that constitute south-eastern Alaska, where are the busy mining towns of Juneau, and Sitka, the sleepy old capital. This is the Alaska of the tourist, famous for its great glaciers, its beautiful fjords, and its Thlinket Indians and their totem poles. But beyond the big white range is another and a totally different country, the valley of the Yukon, a great, lone land where winter reigns supreme for nine months of every year, and whose inhabitants are roving bands of fur-clad savages. Over in the British North-west Territory, just across the coast range from Dyea Inlet, Alaska, is a chain of lakes surrounded by snowy mountains and drained by a small stream, which now roaring between gloomy canyon walls and now gliding among birch-covered hills, bears away to the north-west. On either hand it receives numerous tributaries, some of them of great size, and seven hundred miles from its source leaves the British possessions and enters Alaska. After winding for 1,400 miles across this territory it pours its huge flood into Bering Sea. On the lower half of its course the river receives the waters of the Porcupine, Tanana, Koyukuk, and numerous smaller streams, until the little brook, less than ten feet wide, draining Lake Linderman, has in its course become one of the mightiest rivers on the face of the earth—three miles from bank to bank, thirty feet deep, and with a current of five miles an hour. The Yukon district has an area of 192,000 square miles, or about the size of France, and of this area 150,768 square miles is included in the water-shed of the Yukon river. The region as a whole is naturally mountainous in character, but it comprises as well a large area of merely hilly or gently rolling country, besides many wide and flat-bottomed valleys. It is more mountainous in the south-east, and subsides generally and uniformly to the north-westward, the mountains becoming more isolated and separated by broader tracks of low land. The average base level may be stated at a little over 2,000 feet. The Yukon, or Pelly, river provides the main drainage of the region. This river passes from Canadian into American territory at a point in its course 1,600 miles from the sea. The 200 miles of its course in Canada receives the waters of all the most important of its tributaries—the Stewart, Macmillan, Upper Pelly,

Lewes, White river, etc.—each with an extensive subsidiary river system, which, spreading out, like a fan towards the north-east, east, and south-east, facilitate access into the interior.

The history of serious prospecting practically dates from 1887, but reports of great discoveries this year along the Klondyke (or Klondike) river rapidly concentrated attention on that spot. But the difficulties of reaching the scene are very great. The general route is by steamer to Juneau, or Dyea, in American territory, thence by one of four mountain passes over the range to the lakes, in which, if the streams and main river are not frozen, travellers find water transportation to the diggings. The journey is a most arduous one, as all provisions and stores—which must at least be sufficient for a year—have to be carried by sledge and canoe.

The San Francisco papers coming to hand bear witness to the excitement which the discoveries have caused. Almost daily steamers, packed with representatives of every class of humanity, are leaving for Juneau, amidst thrilling scenes. Constantly, too, men are returning who have "made their pile" or are making arrangements for getting still greater wealth. In five months \$2,000,000 worth of gold are said to have been taken from the Klondike region, and one successful miner, Charles Berry, recently held quite a reception in San Francisco. On the floor were four canvas sacks filled with the precious yellow metal, taken from a space less than fifty feet square, and worth all told \$84,000. On the table were to be seen half a dozen small vials and bottles, each containing from \$100 to \$500 in gold dust. The smallest of these contained just \$100, and was the first taken from the claim which yielded so handsomely during the five months worked. There were two bottles, labelled \$500 and \$200, which, were the yield from one pan, the third taken from the mine. In the course of the inevitable interview Mr. Berry said:

"It seems that there is little for me to add concerning the gold to be found in the Klondike district. It is there in great quantities, and I believe that the next five years will develop a condition of affairs the like of which has never been seen. I refer particularly to the Yukon and the Klondike and their tributaries. The ground in that section is literally studded with nuggets of fine gold, which will make thousands of men millionaires. It is not an exaggeration to say that in all the North-West Territory gold will be found in paying quantities. The time will come, though, of course, it will not be soon, when great quartz mills will be in operation all over Alaska and the Yukon country.

"There is one word of caution I want to give to all who contemplate going into the Yukon country this fall. I speak from experience when I say that it is no place for a man who is without money, or who goes there without provisions enough to keep him at least twelve months. I repeat what I said before, that it is a poor man's country, but at the same time every one should consider carefully the ways and means by which he is to furnish food for himself until he is sure of making a strike.

"When I went to the Yukon I carried with me ample supplies. At Juneau I purchased \$2,000 worth of provisions, and before the winter was out I was compelled to send to Circle City for more. This was due, however, to the fact that many of the miners at Forty-Mile camp ran short, and very naturally those of our party would not see them suffer. That gave me an idea what a man might expect under certain conditions, and I now tell the people who are going into that country without supplies that they will regret it.

"The future of Dawson City is of course beyond my ken, but at the same time I do not hesitate to express the opinion that it will ultimately become the greatest min-

ing centre on earth. There is not only the placer diggings; but the quartz to make it all that I believe it will become. People who own property there are fortunate, indeed. Lots are selling now as high as \$5,000, and twelve months from now I believe the prices will be doubled. Already several lots have been donated for public purposes, and within the next year we will have a church, school building and public library.

"I trust that with the beginning of spring the plans that are now on foot to organise opposition transportation companies will be completed. In point of actual tonnage I should say that whisky and hardware constituted the principal shipments to Dawson City within the last twelve months. The prices paid there for absolutely necessary articles have at times been outrageous. An ordinary shovel that can be bought anywhere for 60 cents sold last year in the diggings for \$3 and \$4."

Whilst recognising that it would not be politic to refuse mining licences to other than British subjects, there is still something to be said for the Canadian question whether foreigners should be allowed to go into the country, and take away millions of dollars, without leaving anything in the country or contributing anything to the public revenue. As a Toronto paper points out: "In many States no one but citizens of the States can hold a mining licence. Here the Canadian Government issue licences to anybody on payment of a paltry fee. A short while ago a Swiss, whose earning capacity was a dollar a day, went into that country and returned with \$50,000, dug out of the banks of the river. He took his fortune to Switzerland and left \$5 for his licence in Canada. The great difficulty the country labours under is the lack of definite information. It takes a year to get a man into that country and back again. Many adventurers have left their bones on the rich sands they went to exploit. Some died of starvation, for food is difficult to obtain. Some died from exposure. If public opinion was expressed in favour of a royalty of 10, 15 or 20 per cent on all gold taken away from Canadian streams in the Yukon country, the Government would doubtless be largely guided by it."

It is too early yet to read descriptions of the novel social conditions which must be springing up in Dawson City (on the Klondike) but one youthful prospector sends an interesting directory of the business portion of Dawson. There are thirty saloons, he says, one theatre, eight dancehouses, three general stores, five bakeries, five restaurants, two barber shops, one candy-maker, one watchmaker, and three laundries. Another story tells of some trouble in St. Michael's connected with a fireman on one of the steamers. The man, carried away by the stories told by the returning miners, decided to try his luck with a large party of prospectors. He applied to the Alaska Commercial Company at St. Michael's for a ticket on their steamer to Dawson, but was refused. The prospectors protested against this, and the steamer was detained for two days, the prospectors refusing to leave their recruit behind. The company's agent finally told them that the steamer must sail and if they did not want to go without the fireman they could get their money back. A committee of twelve was appointed from among the prospectors, and about an hour before the steamer was to sail they are said to have waited on the agent. Each laying a six-shooter on the counter before him, they asked for a ticket for the fireman. Yielding to this persuasion the agent sold the ticket and the fireman is now a Klondiker.

Law Reports.

H.B.M.'s CIVIL SUMMARY COURT.

Shanghai, 21st August.

Before R. W. MANSFIELD, Esq.,
Assistant Judge.

PAPPS v. MURRAY.

This was a claim by Mrs. H. W. Papps against R. Gordon Murray for \$156.20, for board and lodging, etc.

The plaintiff was called and swore to the correctness of the amount claimed, but did not produce any detailed statement and had no witnesses.

Defendant said he kept no accounts, and therefore did not know the amount actually owing. He had no witnesses.

His Honour adjourned the hearing of the case until Tuesday, to allow the plaintiff time to prepare a detailed statement of the claim.

24th August.

This was the adjourned hearing of a claim by Mrs. Papps against R. Gordon Murray for \$156, for board and lodging, &c. A detailed statement of the claim was handed in by the plaintiff.

Plaintiff was sworn and in reply to a question put by defendant, said that he (defendant) had over \$9 worth of refreshments between the 1st of May and the 2nd of June.

His Honour gave judgment for the plaintiffs for \$110.10, with costs.

H.B.M.'s POLICE COURT.

Shanghai, 21st August.

Before G. D. PRIZIPIOS, Esq.,
Police Magistrate.

R. v. WARREN and HENDERSON.

W. Warren and W. Henderson were charged with being absent from their ship, the *Troop*, since the 3rd instant.

Capt. Fritz proved the prisoners' absence but gave them both a good character.

His Worship sentenced both prisoners to a week's imprisonment, and to be put on board the ship if she left before the expiry of the sentences.

25th August.

R. v. BHAGAT SINGH.

Bhagat Singh, unemployed, was charged with being drunk and incapable on Yangtzepoo Road on the 24th inst.

Sikh P.C. 56 proved arresting the prisoner, who was in a 'ricksha, and very drunk.

Wang Fung-lai, a 'ricksha coolie, said that prisoner was riding in his 'ricksha for some considerable time, and did not pay the fare. He was very drunk.

His Worship remarked that this was the prisoner's third appearance before the Court this year, and sentenced him to one month's imprisonment, and ordered him to pay \$1 to the coolie.

26th Aug.

R. v. MURRAY.

James Murray, A. B., belonging to the ship *Beacon Rock*, was charged on a warrant with being absent from his ship without leave since the 16th instant.

Mr. Hughes, master of the *Beacon Rock*, said that prisoner left the ship on the day of her arrival, and took all his effects with him.

Prisoner made a long statement, alleging ill-treatment on board, and

His Worship sentenced him to a week's imprisonment and to be put on board the ship after completing his sentence.

R. v. BERO.

Charles Berg, A. B., of the ship *Troop*, was charged on a warrant with being absent without leave since the 13th instant.

Mr. Ribeiro, sworn, said that the ship left on the 24th. A warrant for prisoner's arrest had been issued from the shipping office before the ship's departure. The prisoner had no wages due, but was in debt to the ship.

Prisoner—That's a lie. I had \$15 coming to me.

His Worship sentenced prisoner to a week's imprisonment, with hard labour.

R. v. CATLING.

William Catling, a seaman belonging to the *Beacon Rock*, was charged with being drunk and disorderly in Broadway on the previous day.

P. C. 21 said he was on duty at 11 o'clock on the previous night, when he heard police whistles blown. Witness ran to the corner of Fearon Road, where he saw the prisoner in the custody of two native constables. Prisoner was violent and broke away from them. Witness then arrested him and took him to the station. He was violent on the way and attempted to strike the witness.

His Worship ordered the prisoner to be put on board his ship.

CHINESE COURT OF ENQUIRY.

Shanghai, 20th August.

Before TAO-TAI TSAI CHUIN, President of the Bureau of Foreign Affairs at Nanking, and Sir NICHOLAS J. HANNEN, H.B.M.'s Consul-General.

BENNERTZ v. THE KIANGNAN DEFENCE AND PAY DEPARTMENT.

This was a resumed sitting of a Court constituted under the provisions of Article 17 of the Tientsin Treaty of 1858 and Section 2, Sub-section 3, of the Chefoo Convention 1876, to enquire into the claim by Messrs. Bennertz and Co. against the Kiangnan Defence and Pay Department. The proceedings now take place at the Canton Guild, Ningpo Road.

Mr. H. P. Wilkinson appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. W. V. Drummond for the defendants.

Mr. H. J. Sonne was further examined by Mr. Drummond. He said that Mr. Bennertz' statement that he (witness) was surveyor to the China Traders' Insurance Co., was not correct, as he was in no way connected with that institution. None of the items struck out of witness' report by Mr. Kuo were essential to the navigation of the ship. The absence of the boiler lagging would not increase the heat in the engine-room to any perceptible extent. The lagging was put on to prevent radiation of heat, but the radiation from the shell of the boiler did not come near the firemen. If it had required lagging he would have suggested that it should be renewed. The boilers were double-ended, and if they were used for any length of time with a fire at one end only, they would receive great damage; it was a thing only to be done in case of imminent risk of shipwreck. Such a thing might cause the immediate breakdown of the boilers, and almost certain permanent injury. Regarding the slacking of a bolt connected with the pumps, witness said it was not his duty to test all the bolts in the engine-room, and his attention was not drawn to it. It was the duty of the engineers to see that all the nuts and bolts were kept tight. When he surveyed the engines he was of opinion that everything was in good order, and he did not consider the things put down in the estimate the plaintiffs showed him were necessary. Very likely the alterations, if carried out, would have improved the ship, but they were not necessary.

Cross-examined by Mr. Wilkinson, witness said he held first-class English and Danish engineers' certificates. He had not served on board a ship with triple-expansion engines, but, as surveyor, he had had a lot of triple-expansion engines under his notice. Witness had occasionally surveyed steamers for Messrs. Graves & Co., but he could not recollect ever having met Mr. Kuo in connection with those vessels. Mr. Kuo might have been there but he had never held any conversation with him. Lloyd's certificate was supposed to represent that the vessel under ordinary management was able to run. He believed that the certificate for the *Wooning*, as it stood, conveyed true information for the owner, agent, or insurer. Asked how it was he gave a certificate when some of the repairs were not carried out, he said the forced draught casing had nothing whatever to do with the ability of the boiler to steam. He considered it an incumbrance and did not expect that they would at any future time use forced draught, therefore he considered it superfluous and recommended it should be cut away. The boiler lagging was cut out because witness thought Mr. Kuo was the superintendent for Bennertz & Co., and that it was done with the latter's sanction. It was not a very big matter to have a difference about. There was nothing wrong with the boiler chocks, and the foundations of the donkey-boiler were sufficient to support it. He did not see a hole, and if he had he would not have considered it unsafe as regarded the setting up of the boiler. All witness could say with regard to Mr. Herzberg's evidence was that although he looked at the parts he did not see the defects of which Mr. Herzberg spoke. He looked at the shafting in the tunnel and found it all right, but he did not sight it to see whether it was in line. In spite of what Mr. Herzberg said he adhered to his statement that the pumps were in good order. He looked at the cylinders and found the surface smooth, but he did not gauge them. If they had been oval it would only have meant using a little more steam, and would not have affected the running of the engines. From the packing-ring he could see no indication of the cylinders being oval, and he did not believe they were.

Mr. Wilkinson produced the upper part of one of the bearings of the shafting and asked witness whether he was still of opinion that it would have run all right for another year.

Mr. Sonne said he entirely adhered to his evidence and saw nothing in the state of the bearing produced to modify his opinion.

Mr. Wilkinson—With Boyd and Co's. estimate before you of the repairs necessary, would you give that vessel a certificate?

Witness—Quite apart from the breakdown, I should be afraid that the boilers would have suffered from their being fired from one end.

Mr. Wilkinson—But there is nothing in Boyd and Co's. estimate about the boilers.

Witness—I would have to re-survey both engines and boilers. The vessel has had a breakdown and in consequence of that she loses her class until she is re-surveyed.

Captain J. P. Roberts, marine surveyor, examined by Mr. Drummond, said he had practised in Shanghai for twenty-six years, being surveyor to a number of insurance companies. He had known the *Wooning*, the *Ningchow*, and *Sinfokien* ever since they had been in China, and had surveyed them for insurance. In June, 1896 witness made the report (produced) for the China Traders' on the *Wooning*. He was not an engineer by profession but had been superintendent engineer for one of the largest companies in Shanghai, and had had a great deal to do with engines in the course of his business. Witness regarded Mr. Sonne as an exceptionally good surveyor. Witness did not believe

it would be possible to run the *Wooning* and *Ningchow* on the coast or river as merchant vessels and make them pay. It was a matter of notoriety that they were regular "pickpockets" and that nobody could run them at a profit. It had been tried several times and failed. The *Sinfokien* did not burn so much coal and carried more cargo, so that she might be made to pay. The *Kiangning* formerly belonged to Jardines, and ran as the *Kingwo*. He supposed they made her pay.

William Mackenzie said that on the 10th of July, 1896, he joined the *Wooning* as third engineer. His evidence was to the effect that the following day they started for Hankow but the starboard boiler began leaking, and the vessel had to anchor. Witness was about to commence the repairs when he was stopped, and told that all work of such a kind had to be done at Boyd's. After the boiler had been caulked the vessel started again on the 13th for Hankow, and everything went all right until coming back, and near Shanghai, on the 21st, when the second engineer, on handing over the watch to witness, told him to observe the nut on the pump lever, as it had slackened back. Witness took care to notice it but the nut did not slack at all. On the 26th witness went on duty when the ship was getting under way, the chief engineer and the second engineer working the engines. When taking over duty, after passing the shipping, witness inspected the engines and found everything all right. Mr. Herzberg remained in the engine-room nearly all the time, round by the port pumps. Witness went round on his tour of duty two and three times, and on the last occasion he said to Mr. Herzberg, "Is there anything wrong?" The latter said that everything was all right, and went round to look at the steam gauge which showed 120 lbs. of steam. Mr. Herzberg told witness to get up 10 lbs. more steam and take out of the engines all he could. Witness went and showed the stokers to where he wanted the gauge to rise. Coming out of the stoke-hole he heard a heavy crash at the back of the port engine. He knew there was something wrong, and at once stopped the port engine. He went round and saw the pumps were all carried away. Coming back Mr. Herzberg came up to him and asked what was the matter. Witness told him all the pumps were carried away and Mr. Herzberg said it was just what he expected. Then the second engineer came, and Mr. Herzberg went on deck. The wreck of the pumps was then cleared away, and the only thing they noticed was that the nut on the pump-lever, was slackened back three or four threads. The engineers had some conversation as to the cause of the accident. Mr. Herzberg passed witness a cigarette and said, "Mackenzie, you look a little shaky over this breakdown." Witness replied, "If you were on watch you would feel shaky too," adding that he had been twenty-seven years on duty in an engine-room and had never had a breakdown before. Later he said to Mr. Herzberg, "I think you expected a breakdown." Mr. Herzberg said, "How so?" "Well," witness replied, "I have never seen you so long in the engine-room on my watch before." Mr. Herzberg smiled and went away. Every time when witness saw it until the accident the nut was tight. He could not think of any cause which would make the nut work back so far in such a short space of time. In his opinion it was helped back the whole way.

Mr. Wilkinson—Do you make the direct accusation that you think Mr. Herzberg put back the nut and caused the breakdown?

Witness—I did not see him. It would not have been good for him if I had seen him. The last time I saw him was when he was leaving the engine-room.

Sir Nicholas Hannen remarked that he did not think the matter should be left

at this point. Did the witness mean that Mr. Herzberg actually caused the accident?

Witness said he did not see Mr. Herzberg do it.

Sir Nicholas Hannen said he was not asking the witness whether he saw it, but whether he thought that Mr. Herzberg wilfully caused it.

Witness said he could not say.

Sir Nicholas Hannen said he was not asking the witness what he saw but what he thought. Of course, if he could not say what he thought—

A Chinese, who was described both as first and second engineer before the steamer was handed over to the plaintiffs, was called for the purpose of showing that the nut in question had previously given trouble, but his evidence simply amounted to the statement that he used to look at the engines to see they were all right.

Some discussion then took place as to the adjournment. Mr. Drummond said he intended to call one more witness, but as he was not present he would not call him, and the next business would be the summing-up, with the exception of the examination of the Chinese who was said to have successfully packed the manhole door, and who was now on his way from Hongkong. The *Taotai* said that according to Chinese custom it was now the duty of the plaintiffs' counsel to sum up—and not the defendants' as in an English Court. In the course of conversation, Mr. Wilkinson said he was so convinced of the justice of his case that he was prepared to sum-up at once, and one of the interpreters suggested that the "custom" was somewhat doubtful inasmuch as there was no summing-up in a Chinese Court. In the end the Court rose shortly after one o'clock, it being understood that Mr. Wilkinson would sum up at the next sitting, on Tuesday.

24th August.

Upon the Court assembling,

Wong Teh-sun was called by Mr. Drummond. He said that he was third engineer on the *Wooning* when she was handed over to Bennertz & Co. On the 25th of June the plaintiffs sent for him, and Kung, their interpreter, said that the *Wooning* could not get away as there was something the matter with the engines. Kung gave him two letters with which he went on board. Witness was taken down to see the engines by Mr. Herzberg and the comrade and found them all right. Witness examined the manhole door and found it had been packed with round rubber instead of flat paper packing. The packing was changed accordingly and water put into the boiler. He was on board about two hours and saw the door closed all right. The foreign engineer asked him to stay on board, and also gave him a letter to Kung, who promised him \$50 as a present if the steamer started. The vessel left the next morning but he never got the \$50.

In cross-examination witness said he did not know English, and the ship's comrade acted as interpreter.

This closed the evidence, and,

Mr. Wilkinson proceeded to sum up for the plaintiffs. He said—I now propose to sum-up, but I protest against doing so at this stage because it may be a bad precedent if this Court ever sits again. To-day, this Court has an opportunity of righting a great wrong that was done this day, one year ago. On that day the *Kiangning* was unjustly and unlawfully detained, she being then under charter to a British firm, under a charter-party signed at the British Consulate. The circumstances have allowed of a redress of that wrong by civil process, for which the defendants should be truly thankful. This suit is important, not only on account of the issues involved, but important as the first suit to be brought before this specially constituted Court, and on the judgment given depends whether that Court will sit again or not. The learned counsel then proceeded to relate the history

of the case. He said the three steamers *Cass* (*Ningchow*), *Smith* (*Wooning*) and *Sinfokien* were chartered to the plaintiffs for three years. The plaintiffs chartered steamers, not subjects for repairs, and that that was so shown by the evidence of Mr. Bennertz, Mr. Chu, Mr. Kuo, and Mr. Sonne. It was distinctly understood the steamers were to be properly repaired by the defendants, and in consideration of their not having paid the plaintiffs the expense of fitting up the steamers, the defendants were not expected to pay for the ships' papers. That the ships were not in proper order when handed over to the plaintiffs, he (Mr. Wilkinson) thought was proved by the evidence before the Court, and as regarded Mr. Herzberg, he asked the Court in fairness to say that it believed him. Evidence had been called to blacken Mr. Herzberg's character, which the man who gave it was himself ashamed of. Was it likely that if the engines of the *Wooning* had been in such good order Boyd & Co. would have given such a large estimate for their repair; and that the ships, generally, were not properly repaired was proved by Mr. Chu agreeing that Tls. 5,900 should be paid for them. As to the amount of charter money which had been paid to the defendants, it came to Tls. 7,837.80, and it was interesting to note that Tls. 5,556 was paid to Mr. Chu before one steamer began to run. The next point was Mr. Bennertz trying to get payment from the Department for the repairs which they should have executed and paid for themselves. Not getting paid, Mr. Bennertz wrote and telegraphed to Mr. Chu's immediate superior, and still not getting satisfaction Mr. Bennertz telegraphed to the Viceroy. On the latter referring that matter to Mr. Chu, Mr. Chu instead of making up his accounts hoped to get out of the matter by saying that the telegrams were not serious. In the meantime Mr. Bennertz, on the 25th of July, had demanded a specific sum of Tls. 12,600, and, during the case in Court, vouchers had been put in fully sustaining the amount. Mr. Chu had admitted owing Tls. 5,900, but that sum was not paid to the plaintiffs or credited to them. The next point was the proposed handing back of two steamers on payment of Tls. 25,000, a sum which was made up of money due and a lump sum for which the plaintiffs were prepared to hand back the steamers. That some such arrangement was contemplated was proved by the promissory notes, and *teiwans* being sent to take over the steamers. There were, really, only two sums of importance in the case the Tls. 12,600, and the sum now claimed, which was made up of money paid by the plaintiffs, and the dead-loss caused by the stoppage of the steamers. Turning next to the sailing of the *Ningchow* for Hongkong, the learned counsel said it was decided upon by the plaintiffs in consequence of threats to seize the steamers, and with the intention of seeking justice. A suit was instituted against the steamer in the name of the Emperor of China—a suit which the *Tsungli Yamén* seemed to have forgotten to carry on with any speed. Then came the stoppage of the *Kiangning* by the Customs, acting as the unwilling agents of the Shanghai *Taotai*. He (Mr. Wilkinson) fully agreed with what Mr. Nelson said in his opening speech with regard to the stoppage of the *Kiangning*. The detention of the *Kiangning* and *Wooning*, and the seizure of the *Sinfokien*, was a breach of international law and courtesy. If the Department thought they were injured by any action of Bennertz and Co. at that time, the Supreme Court was open to them. The British Consulate had taken no active steps in the discussion at all. At that time, the Chief Justice knew nothing of the matter, and if he had known anything he would not have sat on a case upon which he had made up his mind. The defendants might have gone to their

legal adviser who would, he (Mr. Wilkinson) hoped, have told them that no British barrister would sit on a case as a judge when he had already made up his mind. It was not a fact that a subject of any civilised state could choose whether he would go to law or help himself. From the evidence he (Mr. Wilkinson) had made up a statement of the accounts on the 24th of August last year, which showed that there was at least a balance of Tls. 3,897 due to the plaintiffs. But, the seizing of the *Kiangning* had nothing whatever to do with accounts, for it was a wrongful act even if the plaintiffs had been indebted to the Department. Proceeding to deal in detail with points of the defendants' case, Mr. Wilkinson said that their first point amounted to an assertion that because the plaintiffs claimed too much the defendants were justified in refusing to pay anything. As to the complaint that the plaintiffs had refused to arbitrate, it was interesting to note that two days after an attempt at agreement before himself and Mr. Sharp, the attempt was made to secretly take the *Kiangning* up to the Arsenal. That did not increase the plaintiffs' desire to arbitrate. Even supposing they had agreed to arbitration, he did not believe they would have been any nearer carrying out the arbitrator's decision. It was not an excuse for the illegal action of the Department in August that the plaintiffs declined to arbitrate in the February following. As to the defendants' suggestion that the plaintiffs' whole case was a deliberate conspiracy to defraud, Mr. Wilkinson ridiculed the idea that they (the plaintiffs) had run the risk of bankruptcy and starvation on the chance of getting money out of the Viceroy, Tseng, Taotai, or even Mr. Chu, whilst, at the same time, they laid themselves out to the liability of being sued in the British Court. He could not call that a very brilliant or clever conspiracy to defraud, and he asked the Court to hold that the charge was untrue and childish.

At this point the Court rose.

After the adjournment for fifteen,

Mr. Wilkinson continued his address by referring to Mr. Sonne's certificate. He said that as a professional man, he felt some difficulty in referring to the work of another professional man; but he thought the fairest way to put the case was that Mr. Sonne was employed both as Lloyd's surveyor and as a private surveyor, who was primarily concerned as Lloyd's surveyor in satisfying himself that the component parts of the engines were there in some condition or other. The plaintiffs contended that he worked for the Department as a private surveyor, and Mr. Kuo had admitted that on Mr. Sonne's report being sent to him he (Mr. Kuo) struck out certain items, such as the boiler covering and the forced draught casing. The question of the boiler covering as affecting the consumption of coal was very important to the people running the vessels, and the forced draught apparatus in its broken down condition rendered the dampers useless. The defendants had tried to prove that the plaintiffs risked the property of the Department by employing incompetent officers, but their efforts had broken down utterly, and, moreover, the charge was ridiculous. A great deal had been made of a defective manhole door, but the evidence proved that that was a minor matter, and had nothing to do with the defects of the engines in the main parts, which should have been put right by the defendants. An effort had been made by the defendants to show that the ship had been run at a loss, but, he contended, it had quite failed, as the evidence of Mr. Bennertz and the compradore showed that although the first month was one of initial expense, it resulted in a distinct profit of Tls. 11,000, in face of the competition of four other companies. The compradore, moreover, stated that if the steamers had not

been stopped he was prepared to go on advancing money, and if the freights were collected the business was good. In conclusion the learned counsel said:—I am here to plead, not to threaten. Evidence has been given that Bennertz & Co. said they had the Chinese under their thumb. In moments of excitement they may have said so, and said so truly. I ask his Excellency, and I ask him with the expectation that he will do so, to prevent further international complications by giving judgment for the amount which they have claimed. Mr. Bennertz, as a British merchant, signed those contracts, and has carried them out, and it is their fault if Mr. Kuo or Mr. Chu believed that the charter-party would have a short time to run. In conclusion I have to thank his Excellency for the kind attention he has paid to a very long case, and to thank the interpreters.

Mr. Drummond, in replying on behalf of the defendants, contended that the word "seizure" was not a proper one to use in connection with the steamers, and he pointed out that the plaintiffs' men had been and were still in charge of them. He contested the view that a man must either resort to law or do nothing at all, remarking that this would mean that a man who saw his property in danger from a thief must do nothing beyond instituting a suit in a court of law. With regard to what he had said as to the case being founded upon conspiracy, in all he had said he intended to imply that the entering into the contract, and the commencement of the business was undoubtedly reckless, and, from a business point of view, an unscrupulous course to take, but that there was no idea of a conspiracy then. He thought it would be found that the conspiracy began when the plaintiffs found themselves smothered in debt, with no way of getting out of it.

At this stage the Court rose for the day.
25th Aug.

Mr. Drummond, continuing his address, said:—The first matter to which I wish to draw the attention of the Court, and make a few remarks about, is the observation made by Mr. Wilkinson in opening. I think it is just possible that the point may hereafter be referred to in some way or other, and therefore I do not like to pass it over in silence. Mr. Wilkinson protested against having to sum-up his case first on the ground that it might form a precedent in future cases. Now, in reference to that, what I have to say is this, I think that protest implies that in this or similar Courts the procedure should follow closely and exactly the practice in English Courts. If that be the basis of the observation it is one to which I must take objection. I do so on this broad ground. While fully admitting that in my own opinion English law and English practice are far in advance of those of any other country in the world, I think that it will be admitted by all English lawyers of experience that there are points in English law, and especially in English procedure and practice, which can be improved. The duty of preparing codes for practice in British India was carried out by English lawyers of the highest eminence of the day, and those codes differ very considerably in many matters from English law and practice. I think that if, as is possible, some day the High Court may be established at Shanghai, with general jurisdiction, such as a real Mixed Court, it will be necessary to prepare a code of procedure for that Court, and while I think that the codes of law and practice would be and should be based to a very great extent upon English law and practice, there would be, I think, many points in which it would be necessary to make a considerable difference. To apply these general observations for the moment to the point in question, I may say this. I think it will be always admitted that it is an advantage, in most cases—at any rate, a slight, advan-

tage—to have the first word in a case. I think it will also be admitted to be an advantage, even if a slight one, to have the last word in a case, and I have never been able to discover any good reason why both those advantages should be given to one side. I think that where one side has one of those advantages, the other should have the other, and if I had to give any advice in regard to the preparation of a code of practice, that is the line upon which I should prepare a ruling on the particular point. I therefore, think that the ruling of the Judge in the present case was a right one, and is one which should be adhered to in all cases in future. Now, I propose as concisely as I can, but as fully as my duty requires me to do it, to sum-up the defendants' case. On opening the case I placed before the Court seven points. I did so for the purpose of endeavouring to assist the Court to follow the evidence to be given afterwards, and so that it might understand it. At the conclusion it is always possible, to draw the threads much closer, and I can now condense the matter under three heads. They are:—

That the claim of the plaintiffs for Tls. 12,600 on the 25th of July, 1896, was false and fraudulent. That the claim in the present is also fraudulent.

That the detention of the steamer by the defendants was quite justifiable and the claim for Tls. 50,000, or any sum, as damages for such detention is utterly unfounded and ridiculous.

That the conduct of the plaintiffs in their efforts to extort money from the defendants constitutes a conspiracy to defraud.

As to the counter-claim, no evidence has been offered, and the Court is only asked to say that the plaintiffs ought to pay to the defendants all such losses as have been caused by their wrongful conduct. I only ask the Court for an expression of opinion, and I do not ask the Court to fix any sum or make any order on the counter-claim. The learned counsel then proceeded to contend, with reference to the first point, that the claim for Tls. 12,600 was unjustifiable for the following reasons:—First, everything must be decided according to the terms of the written agreement, and no verbal evidence could be admitted as to what went before the agreement was signed. By the agreement the vessels were to be handed over as they were, subject only to the requirements necessary to obtain insurance; and the plaintiffs were given liberty to use them as trading vessels if they wished to do so, all expenses of altering, repairing and fitting up of the vessels for such purpose being entirely the business of the plaintiff, and having nothing to do with the defendants. Many of the items related to the use of the vessels as trading vessels, with which the defendants had nothing to do; they would not be required for government or transport vessels. The items making up the claim were none of them chargeable under clause 7 or clause 4 as claimed by Mr. Bennertz. All sums for repairs under \$1,000 were to be paid by the charterers, and all the sums making up this claim were under \$1,000. All sums over \$1,000 required the consent of the Department, and the work was to be done by the Department, and no such consent was ever asked for. No vouchers were produced at the time, without which no claim could be made for payment. Vouchers were often asked for, but never produced until the hearing of the case, and on examination the claims were found to be absurd. Three items only were admitted by Mr. Chu as properly chargeable: first, electric light, Tls. 500; secondly, ropes, Tls. 1,167; thirdly, the *Kiangning* repairs, up to \$1,800, although, as to the last item he agreed to Tls. 1,900. He also consented to Tls. 587, and Tls. 1,342 for ships' papers, and Tls. 500 for a plate for the ship's

bottom. Those sums were not admitted as chargeable, but only because Mr. Chu was worried by the importunity of the plaintiffs. The claim of Tls. 12,600 was for repairs, fittings, etc., and was made only a month after the ships had been handed over with a complete inventory and a certificate of the highest class by Lloyd's surveyor. It was admitted by Mr. Bennertz that if he had got payment of the sum of Tls. 12,600 it would have cleared him from debt and left him something in hand. In other words, it would have cleared off all the plaintiffs' losses in trying to run the steamers and have given them a present besides. The learned advocate went through a number of the items included in the claim and contended that it was utterly ridiculous to assert that the defendants were answerable for such things, which could not come under the head of fittings. With regard to the claim for Tls. 70,000 in the present suit, the position practically was that the plaintiffs were charging, as against the defendants, for every single thing, that was to say, not only for repairs, fittings, and stores of the steamers, but for the running expenses of the steamers, for the expenses of their own private houses, their offices, and every single thing connected with their business. Mr. Bennertz at one part of the case laid down that the defendants had ruined them and that they (the plaintiffs) must live. The defendants, however, denied that they ruined the plaintiffs, and as to their living they did not see the necessity, at least at their (the defendants') expense. Considering the claim of the plaintiffs for Tls. 50,000, on account of the detention of the steamers, counsel said the detention of the *Kiangning* on the 24th of August was justified for the following reasons. The plaintiffs had made, at the end of July, extortionate claims for sums amounting to Tls. 12,600 on false grounds, thus causing great suspicion and friction. They had offered on the 8th of August to return two steamers, the *Wooning* and the *Ningchow*, and then, on the 14th of August, suddenly demanded Tls. 25,000 before they would return them, and produced a paper, with the seal of the British Consulate upon it, naming that sum, but giving no particulars, and they refused about a week later the offer by Mr. Chu on his depositing Tls. 10,000 in the British Consulate to submit the claim to arbitration. Negotiations therefore as to the return of the two steamers were then still pending. The plaintiffs were well-known to be in a penniless state and there were general rumours of their being bankrupt, whilst they owed money to the defendants both for charter money and for loans. The defendants had no security in their hands for the four steamers which the plaintiffs had in their possession. The *Ningchow* suddenly left Shanghai without passengers or cargo. Enquiries were made and it was found that she had cleared for Chefoo. It was not believed that she was going there as she had no passengers or cargo. A few days afterwards news was received that she was passed at sea and was evidently going to Hongkong, outside Chinese waters. All these things, therefore, caused intense suspicion. Then, on the morning of the 24th of August, a letter was received from the plaintiffs saying that the *Ningchow* had arrived at Hongkong. That letter at once made Tseng Taotai fear the loss of the ships, and, learning that the *Kiangning* was ready to sail, nominally for Hankow, he feared that she would also be taken out of Chinese waters, and took steps to have her stopped and detained in Shanghai. The ships were flying the Chinese flag, and the Chinese authorities had a perfect right to detain them if they thought fit to do so. Those were the reasons which he said showed that the authorities had the very fullest rights and justification in stopping the *Kiangning*. The evidence

given showed that all the suspicion was thoroughly well founded, and that the *Ningchow* was sent to Hongkong for the purpose of selling her or to compel the Chinese to pay the sums demanded from fear of losing the ships altogether. The evidence also showed that it was intended to do the same with the *Sinfokien*. It was as clear as the sun shining in the heavens that the defendants had the fullest right and justification in preventing the ships from being taken out of Chinese waters. It was perfectly ridiculous to say that defendants were not justified in preventing the ships from being stolen and sold or removed beyond their reach. No force was used, but any amount of force would have been perfectly justifiable.

The Court at this point rose for the day. 26th August.

Mr. Drummond, continuing his address, said his next point was that a conspiracy by the plaintiffs had been fully proved. He contended that as regarded credibility Mr. Chu's evidence had been unshaken, whereas Mr. Bennertz had admitted a falsehood in one of his letters, and his evidence had been contradicted on other points. The whole conspiracy, in fact, would have been still-born if the British Consulate had refused to countenance and assist the plaintiffs. When he saw it likely to come before him as judge, the acting Consul-General, Mr. Jamieson, should have refused to listen to the matter, or have acted upon Clause 17 of the Treaty of Tientsin. On previous occasions the Consulate had refused to advise or assist large British firms and institutions on the ground that the matter might be the subject of a suit in the Court.

Sir Nicholas Hannen said Mr. Drummond's remarks were difficult to deal with, especially as Mr. Jamieson was absent; but any complaint against the officials was for the government to deal with, and not the Court.

Mr. Drummond said he would be very glad to omit his remarks, but he could not help pointing out that it was in consequence of that action that the case had gone to such length. He complained that instead of endeavouring to settle the matter amicably, as the Treaty provided, by communicating with him (Mr. Drummond), the Consulate took up such an attitude that, rightly or wrongly, he did not feel justified in taking the matter to the British Court. He believed that if he had been communicated with as the legal adviser of the defendants, some definite arrangement might have been come to at an early stage which would have settled the case promptly. One of the phrases used in the despatches to the Taotai had such an effect upon his mind as to make it in his (Mr. Drummond's) mind impossible to take the case into the British Court.

Sir Nicholas Hannen said he did not think the despatches were relevant to the case before the Court. He could not understand how an English barrister could stand up there in Court and ask the Court to enter upon something which was not before it. The despatches were not within the plaintiffs' knowledge.

Mr. Drummond said it was possible that the case might go forward to Peking and London, and as it was the first of the kind he wished to make it clear why the defendants had not gone to the British Court.

Mr. Tsai explained that all the despatches had been sent to him for reference.

Sir Nicholas Hannen said however that might be, they were not before the Court in the case, and the plaintiffs did not know what they were.

Mr. Drummond said he only intended to allude to them to show how it was that in his opinion it became impossible to take the case into the British Court. He would not go into any of the details of the reasons why he arrived at that conclusion as the matter was objected to, but he would be

prepared at any future time, if the opportunity were given him, to state in full detail the reasons for the statement he had made. Proceeding to discuss several points of the evidence, he drew attention to the fact that the plaintiffs had tried to annoy the gunboat near the *Wooning*, and denounced as a contemptible effort to mislead the Court the suggestion embodied in a question to Mr. Kuo that the Chinese worried the *Wooning* so much that it was hardly possible for the men to cook their food. Mr. Rocher had completely contradicted Mr. Bennertz' evidence that he (Mr. Rocher) was willing to pay Tls. 120,000 to settle the case, only he was stopped by the Taotai. The way in which the plaintiffs had treated Mr. Chu—an old man unfamiliar with foreign business—was a piece of cold-blooded ingratitude which was simply shameful. He was first deceived into handing over the steamers by statements of imaginary wealth; then he was actually drawn into guaranteeing the plaintiffs for Tls. 10,000; then he was made use of to represent a big Chinese syndicate backing the firm; and then, when he would not betray his duty to the Department, he was denounced to the Viceroy. It was hardly possible for meanness to go further. The case showed that the plaintiffs jumped at an extraordinary lucky chance of going into a very big business and getting four steamers to run on the Yangtze and coast. They had no capital, no credit, no agencies at the ports, no wharfage accommodation, no experience of any shipping business, and the chartering of the steamers under such circumstances was an utterly reckless and unscrupulous proceeding. The result was what might have been expected—ruinous loss and heavy indebtedness within two months. At the end of July the firm were evidently in a desperate condition financially, and it was then they conceived the audacious plot they proceeded to carry out. They made up a claim and tried to threaten and alarm the Viceroy by the threat of selling the ships. At that time a breakdown was evidently a thing out of which a great deal might be made, and, strangely enough, that was the very thing that happened to the *Wooning*. There was very striking evidence as to how that breakdown occurred, which was one of the darkest features in the dismal story. After that they very cleverly got a document signed before the acting British Consul-General naming Tls. 25,000 as the sum to be paid to them on their handing over two ships. The document was shown to Mr. Chu in triumph, but the astute attempt failed. Then the *Ningchow* was secretly sent to Hongkong, but the attempt to get the *Sinfokien* away was frustrated by her detention at Chinkiang. In that matter, as all through, evil deeds were attempted, or threatened, and then their prevention was made the basis of a claim. If the plaintiffs had accepted the arbitration when it was proposed by the defendants, the case would have been settled by the middle of February, more than six months ago, but it was declined on the ground that it was too late. In spite of all their efforts the plaintiffs had now had to submit to a full investigation, and it had disclosed one of the worst stories, if not the worst, which had ever come to light in a Court since foreigners first came to China. It was not necessary to repeat all the proofs of falsehood and fraud which were to be found all through the case, and which were, no doubt, fresh in the mind of the Court. Against the sum of nearly Tls. 6,000 which Mr. Chu consented to pay in August, 1896, there, of course, had to be set off the enormous sum that the plaintiffs ought to pay the defendants as mentioned in the counter-claim, and there was, therefore, nothing due to the plaintiffs, but a large amount due by them to the defendants. He asked the Court to declare, first, that

the claim of the plaintiffs was found to be false and fraudulent; secondly, that the defendants were fully justified in detaining the ships; and, thirdly, that the plaintiffs deliberately conspired to defraud the defendants; that the suit should, therefore, be dismissed, and that the plaintiffs ought to pay to the defendants the amount of the losses that the defendants had suffered through the wrongful conduct of the plaintiffs, and ought to hand over possession of the ships at once to the defendants. In conclusion, the learned counsel said:—I now desire to thank Tsai Chiin Taotai for the patience, courtesy, and ability that he has displayed throughout this long case. He has, I know, served as an official connected with foreign affairs in China for more than twenty years, and is one of the few Chinese officials with really valuable experience in connection with foreign affairs. He has also served in the Chinese Legations in America and Spain, and also, I believe, as a Secretary in the Tsungli Yamèn, and in choosing such an official for this very difficult work, the Viceroy of Nanking made a very happy choice. I also desire to express my thanks to Sir Nicholas Hannen, Mr. Scott, Mr. Fox, and Mr. Fung Yee, for the way in which they have behaved towards myself and the clients I represent.

Mr. Tsai Chiin, through Mr. Fung Yee, thanked Mr. Drummond for his very kind remarks, which, however, he said, were not deserved. He had been appointed by his superior officers to go into the case, and it was his duty to exercise any trouble necessary. The arguments of counsel, the evidence of the witnesses, and the great number of documents, would be very carefully considered by him, and, meanwhile, judgment would be reserved.

The Court then rose.

It is interesting to note that the Court began its labours on the 30th of June, and has sat on thirty-six days.

HE DID NOT GO TO AUSTRALIA.

Nothing is easier than to recommend a man to go to Australia. A dozen words or so out of your mouth and you have done it. But for him to act on your advice—that is a gray horse of another colour. You see, Australia is half way round the world; and to pull up stakes here and go there—family, interests, and all—is a job no man takes in hand save for the strongest sort of reasons.

Yet that is what Mr. Emrys Morgan Price, grocer and tea merchant, of Trehafod Road, Hafod, S. Wales, was advised to do by a doctor at Merthyr. Now, we don't say but that the result, if Mr. Price had gone, would have proved the doctor's judgment to be sound; but as it happened Mr. Price came out all right in the end by just staying at home.

The facts are briefly these: In August 1881, the customary choral competition took place at Abergavenny, and Mr. Price attended. In some way, he fails to state how, and it doesn't matter—he took cold and had a chill. When he arrived home at Dowlais he could scarcely breathe. To draw his lungs full of air was quite impossible. In fact, he felt as if he were suffocating. Of course, there was no more thought of singing; the question was one of getting breath enough to live on. He at once tried that good old-fashioned remedy, mustard plasters, putting them on the chest and perhaps on his back between the shoulder-blades. They relieved him for the time, as we might expect. But mustard plasters do one thing; no more. They draw some blood from the inflamed parts to the surface; that's all. When they have set up a bit of mild counter-irritation they are done; they don't get down to deep causes. And here there was a deep cause. We will point it out presently.

There was a constant whistling noise in his throat, he says. You hear it in children when they have croup. It means that the air passages are contracted and the breath has to pass violently through a small orifice. Disease has often strangled people to death that way. "Next," he says, "a violent cough

set in. I coughed and spat up thick phlegm night and day."

This meant more and worse inflammation, and shows us the spectacle of Nature trying to get rid of this product—the phlegm or mucus. But to cough night and day! Think of it. What becomes of a man's appetite and sleep? You can imagine. No wonder the doctor at Merthyr was anxious and suggested a change of climate.

Still Mr. Price, as we have said, remained at home and consulted other physicians, one at Dowlais and one at Hafod. All the doctors agreed that their patient was suffering from acute bronchitis, and very properly treated him for that. Yet somehow their medicines failed to effect any real and radical good. That they were temporarily helpful we may not doubt. But, you see, bronchitis, once seated, is an obstinate and progressive ailment. It has a tendency to take up new ground and to get down on the lungs, the reason being that the lining of the air passages and of the lungs is all one thing. So an affection of any part of it, if not cured, spreads like fire in dry grass.

"As time went on," says Mr. Price, "I got weaker and weaker, and my breathing became distressing to hear. All my friends thought I was in a consumption, and as a sister of mine had died of that complaint, I naturally felt alarmed. Indeed, one night in July, 1885, I was so bad that my wife thought I was dying."

Happily the lady was mistaken, yet death sometimes comes with fearful suddenness in that complaint, and her fear was very reasonable. At that time, please remember, our good friend had suffered about four years, and was in a state of low vitality. The whole body was feeble and exhausted, and there would have been nothing surprising in a fatal termination. But a better result was in store, as we shall now see.

Mr. Price's letter, dated August 16th, 1893, concludes in these words: "Better and worse I continued in the power of this malady, year after year, and had given up all hopes of ever getting better. In February, 1887, after having endured it 5½ years I read of a person at Pontypool having been cured of the same thing by Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup. I got a supply of it, and in a few days I felt relief. I kept on with it and gradually improved. In six months the cough had left me and I was a well man. Since then I have been sound as a bell. If you like you may publish my statement and I will gladly answer any enquiries. (Signed) Emrys Morgan Price."

Good! That is pleasant and cheering to hear. One word—an important word—bronchitis, pneumonia, rheumatism, gout, nervous disorders, liver complaint, kidney trouble, and most of our familiar diseases are caused by poison in the blood; and the poison is produced by stomach fermentation, indigestion, and dyspepsia. Consumption itself comes in the same way. Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup drives out the poison and stops the manufacture of more. That's why it cured Mr. Price and will cure anybody.

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Per str. *Wuchang*, for Chefoo—Mrs. M. B. Anderson, and Mr. H. Brady. For Tientsin—Mr. Michaelis.

Per str. *Haean*, for Chefoo—Mr. and Mrs. Bland.

Per str. *Tungchow*, for Chefoo—Mr. H. Morris. For Tientsin—Mr. Rohde.

Per str. *Kiangteen*, for Ningpo—Mr. Petersen.

Per str. *Kiangyung*, for Kiukiang—Mr. and Mrs. McKelvie and 2 children.

Per str. *Nyankin*, for Hankow—Mr. and Mrs. Dautremere and 4 children.

Per str. *Chungking*, for Chefoo—Messrs. E. J. Hogg, H. K. Hiller, and W. Lange.

Per str. *Nyankin*, for Chinkiang—Rev. F. Chevalier. For Wuhu—Rev. F. Pariz.

Per str. *Pekin*, for Ningpo—Messrs. J. H. Kay, and H. Bassett.

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Per str. *Shengking*, for Tientsin—Messrs. G. Ackermann, and E. Landreath.

Per str. *Poyang*, for Wuhu—Mr. A. F. Brandenberg.

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Per str. *Empress of India*, from Vancouver, etc.—Mrs. J. Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. W. Cope, Mr. and Mrs. Dautremere, 3 children and maid, Misses A. Larsen, Atkinson, and Moorhead, Mrs. Findlay and 3 children, Mrs. A. Leland. Rev. and Mrs. Hearn and infant, Mr. and Mrs. Korff and 2 children, Mr. and Mrs. Rees and child, Captain Y. L. Oberg, Messrs. A. J. H. and W. H. Moule, E. Smith, J. Thyen, J. Grant, Bruce Robertson, H. R. Kinneer, E. Page, E. Nelson, F. McCarthy, and R. C. Renny.

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Per str. *Kiangteen*, from Ningpo—Mr. and Miss Petersen.

Per str. *Kiangfoo* from Wuhu—Father Bisjeue. From Nanking—Miss E. A. Lyon. From Chinkiang—Father Gari.

Per str. *Hoihow*, from Swatow and Amoy—Miss Vaughan.

Per str. *Fuping*, from Tongku—Mr. Loo Etong.

Per str. *Tatung*, from Hankow—Dr. Cox, Gen. Jones, Messrs. Malashkin, and Pitzpiop.

Per str. *Hsinyu*, from Tangku and Chefoo—Miss F. Grafstour.

Per str. *Taishui*, from Tientsin and Chefoo—Messrs. A. Masey and servant, Walin, J. Grape, and Lo and servant.

Per str. *Chiuyuen*, from Canton and Hongkong—Mr. Ching King-tong.

Per str. *Lienhsing*, from Tientsin and Chefoo—Misses Dodson, Crunner, Elwin, Count Borchglane, Messrs. Soloneff, Mulkay, Janssen, and Partridge.

Per str. *Shengking*, from Tientsin and Chefoo—Mr. Joost.

Per str. *Kutuo*, from Hankow—Willisons' Circus Troupe, and Capt. Takekawa.

Per str. *Anping*, from Chefoo—Mrs. Harper, Miss and Master Middleton.

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TREATIES

BETWEEN

THE EMPIRE OF CHINA

AND

FOREIGN POWERS,

TOGETHER WITH

REGULATIONS FOR THE CONDUCT OF FOREIGN TRADE, &c., &c.

New and enlarged edition, 1897.

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MESSRS. KELLY & WALSH, LD.,

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MESSRS. BREWER & Co.

at Shanghai, 22nd July, 1897.

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at Shanghai, 21st June, 1897.

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE

(From Messrs. Noll, Murray & Co. Piece Goods Trade Report of 26th August.)

EXCHANGE 2s. 3¼d. PER TAEI!

PIECE GOODS.—The unaccountable decline in Sterling rates still continues, and both the foreign Importer and the native buyer are becoming much concerned with regard to the future of this trade. That it is quite impossible to do business at the moment is easily understood, but will it be practicable a few months hence when the supplies in native hands are exhausted? Will the country, or is it in a position to, respond to the increased demands it will be necessary to make upon it? There is little question that articles of Foreign manufacture are looked upon and treated more or less as luxuries by the bulk of China's millions, and appeal mostly to the lower middle class, who cannot afford the more expensive silks and satins of native manufacture affected by the more wealthy of the population. Cheapness is, therefore, the one essential point with this trade, which has to compete, on the one hand, with native home spun cloth that clothe the lowly and, on the other, with the ample supply of Silks and Furs that pander to the tastes of the higher classes. How many of the better to do natives, that we come in daily contact with, wear anything that is manufactured in LANCASHIRE? Can it be wondered at then that the consumption is not greater in more remote parts when the heavy charges for transport, likin, etc., have to be added to the cost? And yet a man who accompanied the commercial mission sent out by the Blackburn Chamber of Commerce writes in one of his reports blaming "the apathy of SHANGHAI for the smallness of the trade, and urges that MANCHESTER should go past SHANGHAI and open houses of her own, being convinced that she could profitably push her trade in good shirtings under new chops." We can only hope that MANCHESTER will not be so foolish as to take the hint and try. There are hundreds of men in MANCHESTER who have had years of practical experience of the trade out here, who have been ready and willing enough to do as Mr. Neville suggests, aye, and have actually tried and lost fortunes over it! So much for the value of the reports of special missions, by men who have had no practical experience in the trade and just see as much of it as the average globe trotter does of the countries he rushes through.

Trade in imports is in an absolute state of quiescence, it being impossible for Importers to sell privately within fifteen per cent of the prices they want, and the natives don't care to buy, even at Auction, although prices there show no material improvement. As an example it will be only necessary to point out that at the YUEN FONG Auction of 29th July, when Exchange was 2/6¼, the average price realised for the three chops of 7-lb. Shirtings was £1.81, to-day with Exchange at 2/3¼ the average was £1.88. In the same way the average of eleven chops of 8.4-lb. Shirtings was £2.08, against £2.11 to-day, and Exchange 9% lower!

Considerable uneasiness is being felt with regard to the stability of some of the Native operators in AMERICAN goods especially, and this was intensified earlier in the week by the tightness of the money market, owing to the Foreign Banks calling in their loans. Fortunately this did not last long, and the position has been much relieved by the lenient way in which several Native speculators in Gold Bars have been met. ENGLISH goods will cause little if any trouble, and are being cleared very satisfactorily. The outside markets show no change one way or the other, and are being kept well supplied with goods. CHINESE is paying a little more attention to Fancy makes.

The home markets are firm, and Cotton is quoted 4½d. in LIVERPOOL. No business is reported for this market. It is announced that a Cotton Spinning Company has been floated in HONGKONG, to run 40,000 Spindles at first. The Cotton will be obtained from here, we presume, which will increase the competition. JAPAN, with her gold currency, promises to be a more keen competitor, and has already started in buying "futures" at £17.30 per picul.

A small business is passing in INDIAN Yarns at firm prices, but they do not advance at all adequately with the drop in Exchange. Details of the business done will be found below.

The Local Mills are mostly engaged in fulfilling old contracts, the only fresh business we hear of being 700 bales of the International Mill's No. 16s. at £83.50, unpacked. We hope to be able to give shortly the total number of Spindles working.

On the page 430 will be found a statement of the Re-exports of ENGLISH and AMERICAN Drills and Sheetings to the four principal Ports of consumption during the first half of the last ten years.

At the Auctions this week :

8.4 Shirtings have only improved very slightly on last week's prices, common qualities showing the greatest advance. The lighter weights were a point or two higher.

Heavy Shirtings were only just steady in most cases, one solitary chop showing any material advance.

Privately there is some enquiry for the special **COREAN** cloths, but prices offered are too low to induce holders to part.

12-lbs., 36-inch.—Steady prices were paid for these this morning.

White Shirtings.—64-reeds were all better sought after and slightly higher prices were obtained. The ordinary 72-reeds advanced two to three candareens, but the finer makes hung fire.

T. Cloths.—The small quantities offered went off steadily.

Jeans.—The usual few pieces of ENGLISH went two candareens higher. A private sale is in the book of 600 pieces *Pepperell Beaver* at £2.85, but it must be a re-sale, as it is contradicted by the Importer.

Sheetings and Drills went without much change.

Fancy Goods.—The *Union Italians* offered this morning went better on the whole, especially the commonest. *Velvets* and *Velveteens* steady.

At the close of last week some 1,200 pieces 4 to 6 lbs. *Turkey Reds* were placed at fairly satisfactory prices.

Woolens went without any change of importance.

Cotton Yarn.—*Indian.*—In spite of a further fall in the Rupee rate a little more business has been done at one tael advance for No. 10s. and two taels for No. 20s., the buying being for *KIRKLAND, HAWKOW* and *HOSAN*. Sales amount to 905 bales, as follows :—

No. 10s., 160 bales.—*Alliance (Peacock)* £73.00, *Savacuti* £73.00, *Hope Mill* £74.25, *Vithaldas Copoldas, Woman* £74.50 and *Currimbhoy Ring* £77.00.

No. 16s., 25 bales.—*Manojee Petit Sun* £84.00.

No. 20s., 720 bales.—*Vithaldas Copoldas, Woman* £82.25/84.50, *Jubilee Mule* £83.25/84.50, *China Mill* £84.00/84.50, *Empress Spinning* £84.50, *Star of India Ring, James Greaves Imperial, Goolambaba and Hope Mill* £85.00, *Connaught and Tea Carrier* £85.00/86.50, *Jubilee Ring* £85.50 and *Ripon Mule* £85.25/85.50.

The s.s. *Rohilla* has come in with 6,272 bales, and the s.s. *Japan* is on her way up with 3,784 bales. Without counting the latter the unsold stock in first hands is estimated at 20,500 bales.

JAPANESE.—The market is firmer and business has been done to extent of 390 bales at one tael higher all round. Sales are as follows :—

No. 16s., 40 bales.—*Bird chop* £81.

No. 20s., 350 bales.—*Woman* £84, *Peacock, Vases and Pheasant* £84, *Two Deer, Fish, Three Horse and Elephant* £85.

The exchange on JAPAN is now 87½ per cent.

Metals and Miscellaneous.—From Messrs. Alex. Biefeld & Co.'s Report of 27th August :—During the past week the market has been going from bad to worse, the great rise in the home prices, the scarcity of tonnage from home, and the fall in exchange all tending to demoralise this market, while the decreasing demands from the consuming districts still further help to distract the dealers. Filling exchange has been the topic of the week, and the almost hourly changes have kept everyone in a ferment. The fall has been a penny during the week, and this, on top of the previous unheard-of quotations, has caused the closing already of two native hongs, and it is prognosticated by those well in the swim of the native bank circles that Shanghai is on the eve of the greatest crash that has ever been known if there is not a change for the better very shortly.

The following home quotations by telegraph will serve to show how great has been the increase already, and reports are to the effect that in some of the principal metal lines the increase had not yet reached the limit.—*Nail Rods*, £6.17.6, c.i.f.; *Bamboo Steel*, Double Horse, £11.16.0, c.i.f.; second quality, £9.13.6, c.i.f.; *Tin Plates*, £20.11.6, c.i.f.; *Copper Sheathing*, 161.0.0, c.i.f.; *Yellow Metal Sheathing*, (Muntz), £52.10.0, c.i.f.; other chops, £50.2.6, c.i.f.; *Corrugated Iron*, £12.18.0, c.i.f.

Opium.—*Maiwa (new)* £690; (old) £710/735; *Patna* £600; (new) £572; *Benares (new)* £577.

EXPORTS.

Silk.—From Messrs. A. R. Burkill & Sons' Circular of 27th instant :—

London telegrams to 24th August quote that market firmer, *Gold Kilin* 9/0, *Blue Elephants* 9/10½.

RAW SILK.—A further advance in prices and a further fall in Exchange has to be recorded this week. There has been a fairly strong demand throughout the interval, and settlements would have been larger but for the disinclination of holders to accept offers at current quotations.

Taitees have advanced day by day until Tls. 470 has been touched for *Gold Kilin*, at which quotation business has been done and could be done. This price shows an advance during the week of Tls. 17½ per picul, Sterling Exchange being 2% and Franc Exchange about 3% lower. About 1,200 bales settled.

Taysaams.—400 bales, about, have changed hands at quotations.

YELLOW SILKS.—2/300 bales have been bought; holders are very firm and rather presume on their position by attempting to dictate terms of inspection, &c., to buyers.

ARRIVALS, as per Customs Returns, 19th to 25th August : 2,603 bales White, 411 piculs Yellow and 129 piculs Wild Silk.

RE-REELS AND FILATURES.—7/800 bales have been booked forward at prices given below. The demand for X Reel Hand Filatures for America continues unabated and prices have touched Tls. 600 for May-hen-yue Extra No. 1 and No. 2.

The Export of Steam Filatures to date is : to America 1,310, to Continent 981, to London 6 and to Japan 2 bales.

WASTE SILK.—Some 400 piculs old season's Curles 1, 2 and 3 have been taken off the market at, it is said, Tls. 47½. Contracts for Filature Knubs are reported at Tls. 87 @ 90 and *Hankow Frisonnet* have been settled at Tls. 19½ @ 20½.

Prices calculated by Maerten's Tables at 11 per cent. Exchange 2¼% and Fcs. 2.97. Freight Tls. 6.50 per bale.

	Tls. per picul.	Stg. per lb.	Fcs. per kilo.		Tls. per picul.	Stg. per lb.	Fcs. per kilo.
TSATLEES. —Black Lion 3	545	11/1	30.60	SKEINS—			
" Bird Chunling	492½	10/0½	27.75	Lucky Twins 2	410	8/5½	23.25
" Yingling	477½	9/9	26.95	" 3	390	8/0½	22.15
" Buffalo 3	490	10/0	27.60	Blue Monster 1	372½	7/8½	21.20
" 4	475	9/8½	26.80	YELLOW SILK—			
" Silver Double Elephant	472½	9/8	26.85	Mienchew	357½ a 370	7/4½ a 7/8	20.40 a 21.10
" Gold Kiling	470	9/7½	26.50	Kopun	360 a 365	7/5 a 7/6	20.55 a 20.80
" Chay Kiling	445	9/1½	25.15	Szechong	262½	5/6½	15.25
HANGCHOW TSATLEES. —Pagoda Tinghow	435	8/11	24.60	STEAM FILATURE—			
TAYSAM. —White Kahing Gold Lion Tinghow	430	8/10	24.35	First Choice 13/15 den	800	16/0½	44.60
" Green Kahing M	455	9/4	25.70	HAND FILATURES—			
" MM	440	9/0½	24.90	Mayhenyue X Reel Ex. No. 1 & 2	Ave. 600	12/2	33.60
" Gr. Al. Flower 1	425	8/9	24.10	Plough Chop X Reel, No. 1, 2 & 3	Ave. 570	11/7	32.00
" 9x12 Moss Green Stork 4	360	7/5	20.55				

	1897-98.	1896-97.	1895-96.	1894-95.	1893-94.	1892-93.
Settlements for this mail	about 3,000	1,000	2,000	3,200	1,000	1,500 bales.
" " season in- cluding forward contracts	" 25,500	10,000	32,500	18,500	21,000	30,500 "
Stocks	" 9,000	12,500	18,000	11,300	17,000	11,500 "
Total Arrivals	" 34,500	22,500	44,500	29,800	38,000	42,000 "
		§ Including old Silk.				

Coal—From Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s Report of 27th inst.

COAL.—JAPAN.—Owing, no doubt, to the enhanced value of the yen, coal has experienced a still further advance, and consumers are now compelled to pay a very high figure for their requirements. There was a very large business done the last two weeks at Tls. 7.10 for first class quality and Tls. 6.75 per ton for inferior kinds. There is very little doubt now but that the demand in Japan for all kinds has increased, as stocks there for sale for export are daily decreasing.

CARDIFF.—At the present rate of exchange it is difficult to give a quotation, but as there is absolutely no demand, it matters little.

AUSTRALIAN WOLLONGONG.—The prices asked being prohibitive, all business in this is at a standstill. The s.s. *Whampoa* arrived on the 14th instant, bringing 1,629 tons, which was sold sometime ago. No further cargoes expected for sometime.

Quotations:—The undernoted figures are based on the most recent settlements for cargoes to arrive and do not represent the present market rates for coals in stock, which fluctuate with the supply and demand:—

Cardiff, ex godown	Tls. 16.00 per ton.
American Anthracite, ex godown	12.00 " nominal.
Sydney Wollongong, steamer cargo ex godown	10.50 " nominal.
Hayama, ex godown	Tls. 7.00 per ton, firm with an upward tendency.
Meniji, ex godown	
Ohmura, ex godown	
Kanada "	
Akaike "	

Arrivals during the fortnight have been:—

Aug. 12, <i>Yiksang</i> str.	1,440 tons	Yoshinotani Coal, to consumers.
" 12, <i>Atagosan Maru</i> , str. {	1,495 "	Hakoku Large Coal, to consumers.
" 14, <i>Ariel</i> , str.	519 "	Tagawa Large Coal, to consumers.
" 14, <i>Leeyuen</i> , str.	2,000 "	Kaiping Coal, to consumers.
" 14, <i>Whampoa</i> , str.	400 "	Kaiping Coal, to consumers.
" 14, <i>Whampoa</i> , str.	1,629 "	Wollongong Coal, sold to arrive.
" 16, <i>Lennox</i> , str.	283 "	Moji Coal, sold to arrive.
" 19, <i>Progress</i> , str.	1,447 "	Mixed Japan Coal, sold to arrive.
" 21, <i>Borg</i> , str.	1,043½ "	Fukuno and Sandem Coal, to native dealers.
" 22, <i>Yiksang</i> , str.	1,300 "	Kaiping Dust Coal, to consumers.
" 22, <i>Nierstein</i> , str.	1,000 "	Yoshinotani Coal, to consumers.
" 22, <i>Atagosan Maru</i> , str. {	1,100 "	Mixed Japan Coal, to native dealers.
" 23, <i>John Baizley</i> , s.v.	900 "	Ichimura Coal, to consumers.
" 24, <i>Fuping</i> , str.	1,000 "	Miiké Coal, to consumers.
" 25, <i>Daymar</i> , str.	950 "	Mixed Japan Coal, to native dealers.
" 25, <i>Yechigo Maru</i> , str.	1,000 "	Kaiping Coal, to consumers.
" 25, <i>Yechigo Maru</i> , str.	1,800 "	Kaiping Coal, to consumers.
" 25, <i>Yechigo Maru</i> , str.	728 "	Mixed Japan Coal, to native dealers.

KEROSENE OIL.—AMERICAN.—The business done during the past fortnight was purely speculative, although a good many transactions took place, they were confined to a certain clique who have been attempting to "bear" the market owing to one or two natives having sold a goodly quantity "short," and from what we can understand their endeavours to cover are as yet futile. Notwithstanding all this the deliveries have continued on a large scale. Stocks now in godowns are 620,000 cases.

Arrivals:—s.v. <i>Geo. R. Skolfield</i> , 14th inst.	60,000 cases.
s.v. <i>Beacon Rock</i> , 16th "	77,148 "
s.v. <i>Eskasoni</i> , 18th "	67,200 "
s.v. <i>Lord Roseberry</i> , 20th "	113,913 "
s.v. <i>Bardowie</i> , 22nd "	91,000 "

409,261

BATUM.—An equally large business has been done in this at slightly enhanced prices from those quoted last, "Anchor" chop having been sold in fair quantities at Tls. 1.60 per case and bulk oil at Tls. 1.47½ per case, the market is very strong, and we must see higher prices very shortly. Stocks 510,000 cases.

LANGKAT.—The small quantity here does not permit of much business, though a little has changed hands at Tls. 1.50 per case and Tls. 1.42½ per two tins, the market is firm in sympathy with other brands. Stocks are small, amounting to only 44,000.

Quotations—Devoo's	Tls. 1.72½ per case.
Batoum, Anchor Chop	1.62½ "
" Horse Chop	1.62½ "
" Bulk Oil	1.47½ per two tins.
Langkat	1.42½ "
"	1.50 per case.

Exchange.—(Closing Rates)—On London—Telegraphic Transfers, 2s. 3½d. Banks Bills, 2s. 3½d. Banks Bills, 4 months' sight, 2s. 3½d. First-Class Credits to Banks, 4 months' sight, 2s. 3½d.; 6 months' sight, 2s. 3½d.; Private and Documentary, 4 months' sight, 2s. 3½d.; 6 months' sight, 2s. 4d. On France—Bank Bills, Transfer Fcs. 2.87. Credits and Documentary, 4 months' sight, 2.91½; 6 months' sight, 2.92½. On Germany—Credits and Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight, Marks 2.36½, lowest 2.35½, highest 2.44. On New York—Credits and Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight, per \$100 G.\$37, lowest 56½, highest 58½. On Hongkong—Telegraphic Transfers, £77½, lowest 76½, highest 77½ nom. per \$100; Private Bills, 3 days' sight, £77, lowest 76, highest 77. On Yokohama—Telegraphic Transfers, £88, lowest 84½, highest 88 nom. per \$100. Private Bills, 15 days' sight, £87, lowest 84, highest 87. On Bombay and Calcutta—Telegraphic Transfers, Rs. 171½, lowest 171½, highest 179 per \$100. Bank Bills, demand, Rs. 172, lowest 172, highest 179½. Bullion—Gold Bars, Shanghai, 98 touch, £420.00, lowest 410.00, highest 420.00. Silver Bars, £111.15, lowest 111.10, highest 111.20. Mexican dollars, £77.8, lowest 76.7, highest 77.8. Carolus dollars, £94.00, lowest 94.00, highest 96.00. Copper Cash 1,200, lowest 1,200, highest 1,270. Chinese Interest, mace 3.2, lowest 2.0, highest 8.0. Bar Silver in London, per oz. 23½ a 23½ a 23½, lowest 23½ highest 24½.

DAILY QUOTATIONS.

(From Messrs. Morris, Fergusson & Robertson's Circular.)

August.	Bar Silver # oz in L'don.	ON LONDON.								FRANCE.		GER- MANY.	NEW YORK.	HONG- KONG.	YOKO- HAMA.	INDIA.
		T/Transfers.		Bank 4 m/s.		Credits 4 m/s.		Docty. 4 m/s.		Francs 4 m/s. and 6 do.		4 m/s. Priv.	Docty. 4 m/s.		T/T	T/T Rup.
		Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.					
21st	24½/1	2.4½	2.4½	2.4½	2.4½	2.4½	2.4½	2.4½	2.4½	3.01/3.02	3.01/3.02½	2.44	58½	76½	84½	179
23rd	24	2.4	2.4½	2.4½	2.4½	2.4½	2.4½	2.4½	2.4½	2.99/3.00	3.01/3.02½	2.44	58½	76½	85	178½
24th	24½	2.4	2.4½	2.4½	2.4½	2.4½	2.4½	2.4½	2.4½	2.98½/3.00	2.97½/98½	2.42	58	77	85½	177½
25th	23½/1	2.3½	2.3½	2.3½	2.4	2.4	2.4½	2.4½	2.4½	2.95/2.96	2.97/2.98	2.40	57½	77½	86½ n.	175
26th	23½	2.3½	2.3½	2.3½	2.3½	2.3½	2.3½	2.3½	2.4	2.90/2.91	2.93/2.94	2.37	56½	77½	87 n.	172
27th	23½/1	2.3½	2.3½	2.3½	2.3½	2.3½	2.3½	2.3½	2.3½	2.91/2.92	2.91½/2.93	2.36½	57	77½ n.	88 n.	171½

Shares.—From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report of 27th August:—

Business has been rather dull. Judging from the rise in exchange on Hongkong, the stringency of the money market there seems to be increasing.

BANKS.—*Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.*—But a small business was done in this stock, chiefly to Hongkong, as the high rate of exchange is an inducement to holders to sell to the Colony, and business is reported at 172 and 169 per cent premium, with exchange 76 in the former case and 76½ in the latter. Locally, cash shares were placed at 181 per cent premium, and for December at 185 per cent premium. We quote 182½ per cent premium, with exchange 73 as the closing cash rate. In Hongkong there are no buyers unless at cheap prices, on account of the tightness of the money market. *Bank of China* Deferred shares have changed hands in Hongkong at £5. *National Bank of China* shares are offering at \$22.

MARINE INSURANCE.—*Unions* have been sold to Hongkong at \$235 and exchange 76½. Local business has been confined to *Yangtzes* at \$160, and *Straits* at \$184.

FIRE INSURANCE.—No business reported. Hongkong quotes sellers of *Hongkong* at \$360, and of *Chinas* at \$106.

SHIPPING.—*Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat* shares are wanted in Hongkong at \$32.25. Only two transactions are reported in *Indo-China S. N.* shares at \$37.

SUGAR COMPANIES.—No business reported locally. Hongkong reports cash sales of *China Sugar Refining* shares at \$139 cum div., while there are sellers of *Luzon* at \$44.

MINING.—*Ramb A. G. M.* shares were placed at \$22.

DOCKS, WHARVES & GODOWNS.—*Boyd & Co.* shares were sold at £190 ex div. The meeting of shareholders in *S. O. Farnham & Co.* is called for the 8th September. Shares have changed hands at £180. *Shanghai Engineering & Dock* shares have been placed at £104.

LANDS.—*Shanghai Land Investment* shares changed hands at £90, *Hongkong Land Investment* shares were placed locally at \$77½. In Hongkong there are sellers for cash at \$71. *Humphreys' Estate & Finance* shares were sold to Hongkong at \$9.25.

INDUSTRIAL.—In *Cotton Mill* shares, *Evans* were placed at £116 and £115, *Internationals* at £121½ to £122 cash and £122½ to £122 for the 31st current, *Laou-Kung-Mow* shares at £116, £117, £118 and £115, and *Soy Chee* shares at £57½, and *Yah Loong* shares at £42. *China Flour Mill* shares were placed at £55.

TUGS AND CARGO BOATS. *Shanghai Cargo Boat* shares changed hands at £196 cash and £200 for delivery on the 30th November.

MISCELLANEOUS.—*Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco* shares were sold at £100 cash, £101 for August, £105 and £103 for September, £105½ for October, £105 for November and £110 for December. *Shanghai-Langkai Tobacco* shares were placed at £450, £430, and £400 cash, and £500 for October and December delivery. Cash shares are in demand at £400. *Hall & Holtz* shares were placed at \$41½, and *Central Stores* at \$15.

LOANS.	Amount of Loan.	Outstanding.	Nominal Value.	Rate of Interest.	When Payable.	Return on Inv. allowing for Amortization.	Closing.
Shanghai Mun. Debentures—Issue 1888	£70,000.00	£70,000.00	£100	6 %	Dec. & June.	(g) 4.90%	... (a) nominal.
Do. 1890	£20,000.00	£20,000.00	£100	6 %	Do.	...	...
Do. 1891	£20,000.00	£20,000.00	£100	5½ %	Do.	(g) 5.40%	... £101.00
Do. 1892	£50,000.00	£50,000.00	£100	5 %	Do.	...	... (a) £100.00
Do. 1893	£125,000.00	£125,000.00	£100	5½ %	Do.	(g) 5.35%	... (a) £101.50
Do. 1894	£105,000.00	£105,000.00	£100	6 %	Do.	(g) 5.12%	... (a) nominal.
Do. 1895	£115,000.00	£115,000.00	£100	5 %	Do.	(g) 5.00%	... (a) £100.00
Do. 1896	£120,000.00	£120,000.00	£100	5 %	Do.	(g) 4.92%	... (a) £101.00
Lycett Theatre Debentures	£17,000.00	£17,000.00	£25	4 %	24 July 1895	...	... £15.00
Chinese Imp. Government Loan 1888 E	£1,767,200.00	£680,104.00	£250	7 %	Mar. & Sept.	(g) 6.05%	... (a) £275.00
Shanghai Land Inv. Co. Debentures 1890	£250,000.00	£250,000.00	£100	6 %	May & Nov.	(g) 5.46%	... (a) £100.00
Do. 1892	£250,000.00	£250,000.00	£100	5½ %	June & Dec.	(g) 5.35%	... (a) £101.50
Do. 1894	£250,000.00	£250,000.00	£100	6 %	Mar. & Sept.	(g) 6.00%	... (a) £100.00
Do. 1896	£250,000.00	£250,000.00	£100	5 %	June & Dec.	(g) 4.92%	... (a) £100.00
Shanghai Waterworks Co. Debentures '94	£100,000.00	£100,000.00	£100	6 %	Mar. & Sept.	(g) 5.72%	... (a) £103.50
Do. '96	£100,000.00	£400,000.00	£100	5 %	June & Dec.	...	... (a) £110.00
Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf Co. "	£400,000.00	£100,000.00	£100	6 %	June & Dec.	(g) 5.37%	... (a) £105.00

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the Deliveries of ENGLISH and AMERICAN DRILLS and SHEETINGS to the principal Ports of Consumption during the first six months of the last ten years.

Description.	Hankow.	Chefoo.	Tientsin.	Newchwang.
DRILLS—English and Dutch—1897 pieces.	9,376	9,265	50,833	7,448
1896.....	9,280	15,069	24,872	10,320
1895.....	15,851	5,010	50,810	225
1894.....	8,759	8,836	35,573	21,165
1893.....	7,125	10,853	43,540	28,090
1892.....	7,965	13,584	32,351	4,125
1891.....	13,970	19,505	49,249	15,455
1890.....	10,346	19,642	65,957	26,720
1889.....	14,644	15,705	59,539	13,207
1888.....	17,330	18,640	81,190	14,710
DRILLS—American— pieces.				
1897.....	87,230	48,660	214,273	97,865
1896.....	66,580	30,400	129,030	79,475
1895.....	47,055	10,050	124,827	...
1894.....	38,560	20,715	137,131	67,820
1893.....	21,955	14,755	53,645	38,715
1892.....	42,950	18,010	91,210	68,985
1891.....	38,560	19,790	135,555	100,095
1890.....	32,283	11,655	88,560	59,875
1889.....	22,915	10,488	92,905	26,705
1888.....	24,020	4,735	96,490	18,080
SHEETINGS—English— pieces.				
1897.....	67,736	29,571	105,483	7,240
1896.....	97,729	32,367	123,323	20,269
1895.....	31,537	8,560	55,470	560
1894.....	33,454	25,960	74,265	22,230
1893.....	55,427	32,740	135,471	40,229
1892.....	61,814	43,794	205,049	27,480
1891.....	58,302	57,370	178,620	38,605
1890.....	57,878	65,920	184,633	31,470
1889.....	66,176	26,153	91,535	3,145
1888.....	82,029	97,330	203,597	49,400
SHEETINGS—American— pieces.				
1897.....	720	213,165	691,020	265,432
1896.....	100	101,940	433,405	179,485
1895.....	590	59,675	331,341	5,550
1894.....	240	40,635	412,535	173,135
1893.....	560	45,330	224,875	98,790
1892.....	534	77,225	489,915	148,780
1891.....	880	89,365	533,325	244,700
1890.....	160	73,910	460,402	153,960
1889.....	300	31,915	448,365	74,130
1888.....	1,360	15,710	378,936	57,885

Statement of Imports and Deliveries of Cotton and Woollen Piece Goods for the week ending 25th August 1897.
compiled from the "Customs Daily Returns," No. 190 to 195, both numbers inclusive.

RA-FACTORYS AND THEIR LUNATIONS.

Goods.	Ningpo.	Wenchow.	Chinkiang.	Wuhu.	Kinkiang.	Hankow.	Ichang & Chungking.	Chefoo.	Tientsin.	Newchwang.	Poonchow.	Hongkong.	Japan.	Corea.	Vladivostok.	Local.	Soochow.
Grey Shirtings 1 Pcs.	5,370	125	5,705	460	667	15,020	7,300	1, 65	23,560	925	2340	...	250	10,680	750	10,000	200
T-Cloths, 32-in.	695	335	865	100	135	550	...	2,675	3,870	150	5335	...	...	...	1262	2,000	300
36-in.	425	...	25	60	63	...	150	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	800	...
Indian, 32 & 36-in.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	550	1,350	300	...	...	...	...	...	400	...
White Shirtings	2,950	...	740	450	1,155	4,750	400	720	6,544	1,000	190	580	50	50,5095	3,000	250	...
Drills, English & Dutch.	225	75	120	240	30	565	...	180	465	420	60	600	...	285	3105	500	...
American	840	45	870	465	135	1,630	...	5,400	27,345	6,635	30	...	...	90	225	750	...
Jeans, English & Dutch.	750	...	80	30	50	40	...	340	3,300	...	...	...	...	60	...	200	30
American	...	...	...	...	...	40	...	...	1,600	...	...	...	...	...	...	100	100
Sheetings, English	140	...	560	360	236	3,000	...	100	720	850	...	...	...	720	2080	600	...
Indian	...	...	...	60	...	...	...	100	230	800	...	...	...	...	...	300	...
American	940	...	60	...	...	...	...	8,640	21,980	9,775	...	...	...	...	200	1,000	...
Dyed Shirtings	...	...	1,770	336	...	80	...	90	150	...	...	...	...	40	...	200	...
Bro. & Sp. S'tings, D.&W.	...	...	50	...	50	...	...	90	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	200	...
Chintzes	120	...	420	...	...	350	...	60	1,260	690	...	...	...	...	220	280	...
Printed T-Cloths	...	...	420	60	300	390	...	210	4,472	...	170	...	...	60	...	500	...
Printed Twills	551	...	290	60	80	360	...	60	520	...	60	...	...	...	30	300	...
Turkey Red Shirtings	25	...	705	140	125	710	25	240	2,594	330	150	...	...	...	50	200	140
Velvets	120	...	54	30	60	144	12	90	177	60	60	480	...	...	...	99	30
Velveteens	24	...	48	...	...	...	...	24	...	158	...	...	...	...	...	60	...
Handkerchiefs Doz.	...	...	1,420	200	...	1,100	...	...	600	200	800	...	...	...	...	3,000	...
Muslins Pcs.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	200	...	...	...	800	...	200	...
Lenos & Balzarines	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	200	200	...
Cotton Yarn, Indian Pcs.	129	...	99	15	549	759	45	228	852	540	...	...	168	21	...	90	...
English	...	...	3	...	9	78	...	...	...	39	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Japan	120	...	6	45	339	1,066	...	596	30	48	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Spanish Stripes, WoollenPcs.	48	...	174	42	54	276	...	30	...	6	54	...	...	...	...	96	...
Cotton	...	...	132	...	24	...	...	72	1,296	...	...	...	...	...	...	72	...
Medium & Broad Cloths.	...	6	46	...	36	188	38	26	20	82	...	...	...	30	...	80	...
Camlets	50	40	...	40	20	570	01	...	20	20	140	...	...	...	...	120	...
Frog Pills	...	20	140	90	40	120	...	20	160	80	20	60	...	...	20	100	...
Lastings	20	20	80	...	20	220	40	180	200	200	20	...	60	20	...	140	...
Italian Cloth	240	...	390	152	90	600	60	...	120	60	30	...	...	...	420	160	30
Cotton Lastings & Italianas	2,122	160	1,932	260	290	2,860	650	1,470	7,534	1,289	260	...	...	460	190	700	60
Plain & Figured Orleans	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cotton Flannels	780	...	280	220	180	150	...	260	840	520	...	...	...	...	...	400	90
do. Japan	2	...	74	...	100	330	...	...	125	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	240
Lead-in Pigs Pcs.	29	...	68	...	250	...	...	484	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Iron, Nail Rod	63	...	1,050	85	...	...	...	258	21	504	...	...	...	...	...	...	311
Kerosine Oil, American, Cases	2,500	...	17,150	1,500	500	21,500	...	50,300	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,720
Russian	...	...	2,100	400	...	21,300	550	14,706	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	700

Stocks at date are based on the Chamber of Commerce Returns on 30th June, 1897.

TOTAL DELIVERIES.

TOTAL IMPORTS.

Goods.	As above.	For the year from 1st Jan. 1897.	Against last year to same term.	For the week	For the year from 1st Jan. 1897.	Against last year to same term.	At date Estimated.	Against 26th August, 1896.
Grey Shirtings Pcs.	84,427	4,334,071	3,877,775	70,266	3,430,005	3,577,600	1,285,624	1,263,994
T-Cloths, 32-in.	18,272	731,005	713,192	4,9 5	520,441	621,870	245,944	203,303
36-in.	1,523	72,089	90,124	1,115	79,037	129,172	50,001	86,005
Indian, 32 & 36-in.	2,600	195,171	219,628	5,000	266,820	135,735	109,179	62,041
White Shirtings	27,921	1,310,498	1,227,175	14,930	1,218,855	1,279,812	559,916	371,971
Drills; Eng. & Dutch	6,870	202,064	204,435	1,500	108,340	210,632	80,322	129,795
American	44,480	882,508	566,890	31,155	849,201	581,375	310,770	?
Jeans; Eng. & Dutch	4,880	136,761	93,917	5,718	130,660	111,507	65,819	55,305
American	1,840	44,285	32,455	...	38,000	21,500	4,930	...
Sheetings, English	9,416	565,367	592,684	7,380	364,147	734,861	96,105	126,516
Indian	1,490	88,840	80,875	...	21,660	98,167	5,512	43,599
American	42,595	1,672,547	1,018,585	10,000	1,813,623	958,065	1,024,490	116,865
Dyed Shirtings	2,586	136,886	106,924	5,146	122,106	63,111	64,793	?
Bro. & Spot. S'ts., D. & W.	470	32,635	28,384	600	29,845	34,102	23,770	14,649
Chintzes	3,400	144,657	123,807	...	190,096	144,795	21,220	1,927
Printed T-Cloths	6,582	440,055	456,458	4,595	402,998	495,548	399,780	174,898
Printed Twills	2,291	85,521	108,772	...	97,533	157,430	134,681	62,401
Turkey Red Shirtings	5,434	170,989	155,709	...	93,825	223,310	100,238	172,018
Velvets	1,409	20,578	21,115	270	23,095	28,129	13,099	13,855
Velveteens	314	7,706	10,275	...	8,573	12,228	11,461	5,472
Handkerchiefs Doz.	7,320	330,477	348,504	4,208	236,047	603,631	362,599	231,163
Muslins Pcs.	1,200	156,553	158,492	...	144,355	306,248	99,866	96,631
Lenos & Balzarines	400	50,594	33,824	...	39,544	38,630	12,857	16,716
Cotton Yarn, Indian Pcs.	3,681	413,948	487,365	12,009	371,357	539,221	96,074	105,253
English	408	19,843	16,130	135	15,556	12,975	2,340	4,703
Japan	2,931	85,304	17,162	7,171	114,143	51,048	20,024	7,745
Spanish Stripes, WoollenPcs.	780	23,926	23,078	132	23,779	31,361	11,582	12,385
Cotton	1,596	29,506	22,540	696	27,115	23,981	17,249	6,626
Med. & Broad Cloths	550	14,954	13,681	260	17,789	21,351	13,459	11,855
Camlets	1,130	31,907	31,115	900	28,626	52,433	14,320	13,240
Long Ells	870	43,314	40,620	1,460	32,526	52,491	59,970	61,936
Lastings	1,220	48,539	38,457	1,670	58,666	28,087	44,557	18,677
Italian Cloth	2,352	62,984	33,683	2,464	74,389	86,479	67,091	20,427
Cotton Lastings & Italianas	20,237	669,293	505,453	12,804	916,168	646,413	548,074	207,175
Plain & Figured Orleans	...	680	520	...	1,563	500	5,235	1,580
Cotton Flannels	3,720	28,461	30,788	1,471	17,924	17,861	62,047	17,399
do. Japan	869	2,441	5,394	2,305	6,920	1,263	?	?
Lead-in Pigs Pcs.	890	47,590	62,852	...	58,706	77,459	4,716	17,689
Iron-Nail Rod	2,295	100,796	140,961	...	62,079	239,408	51,608	105,281
Kerosine Oil, American, Cases	100,170	1,767,651	1,106,568	238,887	2,120,465	1,323,515	443,149	?
Russian	39,756	941,715	684,107	109,640	1,887,653	466,512	?	?

* Including English and Dutch 12-lbs. ‡ The usual daily returns from the Wharves unobtainable.

* Exclusive of undeclared Import Cargoes per Glenavon, Roetta, Maria Valeris, Shanghai, Oopack, Monmouthshire, Victoria, Laos, Medusa, Patroclus, Doric, Empress of India, Rohilla and Glenfarg.

Import Cargoes declared during the interval:—Aglais, City of Peking, Glenogle, Nestor, Energia and Sughalien and additional ex Diomed.

SHARES.

SHANGHAI, 27th August, 1897.

SHARES.	No.	Value.	Paid up.	POSITION PER LAST REPORT.			LAST DIVID. & C.		Average for 3 years.	Return on investment on average of 3 years' dividends.	CASH QUOTATION	
				Reserve.	At Working Account.	Date.	To Shareholders.	When paid or due.			Closing.	Tls.
Banks.										per cent.		
Hongkong & Shanghai Bank Co.	80,000	\$125	\$125	\$7,000,000	\$301,147 90	30-6-97	*£14	16-8-97	\$23.90	6.76	\$353.12	257.78
Bank of China & Japan Ltd.												
Do. ordinary shares	107,483	£8	£3	.....	£50,886.16	7-31-12-96	none	.....	.....	.....	£5.00	nom.
Do. deferred do.	1,101	£1	£1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	£22.00	16.06
National Bank of China, Ltd.	40,453	£10	£8	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5.45	nominal	nom.
Do.	3,818	£10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	£20.00	14.60
Do. Founders'	750	£1	£1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Insurance (Marine.)												
Union Ins. Society of Canton, Ltd.	10,000	\$250	\$50	\$1,500,000.00 (c) 707,766.39	\$748,585.30	30-6-96	£15	9-10-96	\$12.00	4.87	\$246.50	179.95
China Traders' Ins. Co., Ltd.	24,000	\$83.33	\$25	\$1,000,000.00 £164,988.46	\$327,348.85	30-4-96	£85	28-9-96	\$5.00	6.25	\$80.00	58.40
North-China Ins. Co., Ltd.	5,000	£100	£25	\$250,000.00	\$306,887.20	31-12-96	£18.18	28-4-97	£17.06	8.44	.....	202.00
Yangtze Insurance Ass'n, Ltd.	6,948	\$100	\$60	\$450,000.00 £76,783.70	\$344,185.07	31-12-96	£12.30	4-97	\$11.00	6.88	\$160.00	116.80
Canton Insurance Office	10,000	\$250	\$50	\$1,300,000.00	\$45,015.58	31-12-95	£85	9-1-97	\$10.67	5.84	\$182.50	133.22
Straits Insurance Co., Ltd.	30,000	\$100	\$20	\$10,000.00 £100,000.00	\$585,932.16	31-12-96	£27	3-96	\$1.83	9.89	\$18.50	13.50
Insurance (Fire.)												
Hongkong Fire Ins. Co., Ltd.	8,000	\$250	\$50	\$1,121,688	\$304,817.76	31-12-96	£22	6-3-97	\$15.02	4.17	\$360.00	262.80
China Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.	20,000	\$100	\$20	\$886,850	\$267,164.11	31-12-96	£86	1-3-97	\$6.33	5.86	\$108.00	78.84
Shipping.												
H'kong, C'ton & M'cao S.B. Co.	80,000	\$15	\$15	\$609,000	\$29,974.04	70-6-97	*8%	1-8-97	\$2.12	6.30	\$33.50	24.45
Indo-China Steam Nav. Co.	49,589	£10	£10	\$20,000.00 £100,000.00	\$1,380.16	31-12-96	£5.07	2-7-96	\$3.38	9.14	.....	37.00
Douglas Steamship Co. Ltd.	20,000	\$50	\$50	\$100,000.00 £43,000.86	\$1,605.59	30-6-96	£8.00	1-10-96	\$6.33	9.59	\$66.00	48.18
Ch. Mutual S.N. Co. pref. shares.	16,736	£10	£10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	52.00
Do. ord. do.	1,231	£10	£10	£14,005.45	£1,490.94	31-12-96	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	nom.
Do. do. do.	15,505	£10	£5	£122,199.11	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8.05	.....	23.00
Sugar Companies.												
Perak Sugar Cultivation Co. Ltd.	5,000	\$50	\$50	.....	\$123,038.29	31-12-96	£12	23-1-96	\$0.67	1.76	.....	38.00
China Sugar Refining Co. Ltd.	20,000	\$100	\$100	.....	\$2,221.08	31-12-96	£15.50	29-3-97	\$5.83	3.94	\$148.00	108.04
Luzon Sugar Refining Co. Ltd.	7,000	\$100	\$100	.....	\$12,766.38	31-12-96	£85	27-3-96	\$2.67	5.74	\$46.50	33.94
Mining.												
Sheridan Con. M. & M. Co., Ltd.	20,000	\$100	\$100	.....	\$131,536.34	31-12-96	none	.....	none	.....	.....	2.50
Punjom Mining Co. Ltd.	59,349	\$4	\$4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1.03	£6.75	4.96
Do. pref. shares.	30,000	\$1	\$1	.....	\$15,657.81	30-9-96	£0.20	11-1-97	\$0.07	.....	\$2.00	1.46
Jelebu Mining & Trading Co. Ltd.	45,000	\$5	\$5	.....	\$6,781.00	9-8-96	*5%	15-10-94	\$0.48	21.33	\$2.25	1.64
Raub A'lian Gold Min. Co. Ltd.	200,000	£1	13/10	.....	\$4,269.16	51-3-96	£0.22	26-5-96	\$0.07	0.32	\$22.00	16.06
Docks, Wharves and Godowns.												
Byrd & Co., Ltd., Founders'	200	\$100	\$100	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	nom.
Byrd & Co., Ltd., Ordinary	7,800	\$100	\$100	\$190,000.00	\$11,742.10	30-4-97	£117	29-7-96	\$39.00	.....	.....	190.00
S. C. Farnham & Co., Ltd.	7,500	\$100	\$100	.....	\$13,038.03	30-6-96	£12	18-8-97	\$13.00	6.84	.....	180.00
S'hai E. S. & Dock Co., Ltd. ord.	6,000	\$100	\$100	\$200,000	.....	.....	£14	30-9-96	\$12.33	6.85	.....	104.00
Do. Founders'	200	\$100	\$100	.....	\$14,916.64	30-4-97	None	.....	.....	.....	.....	400.00
H'kong & W'pao Dock Co., Ltd.	12,500	\$125	\$125	\$600,000	\$104,104.71	31-12-96	*12%	23-2-97	\$23.75	5.62	\$422.50	308.42
Shanghai & H'kew Wharf Co.	15,100	\$100	\$100	.....	\$20,617.91	31-12-96	£13.00	20-8-97	\$6.72	.....	.....	124.00
H'kong & K'loon Wh. & G. Co., Ltd.	20,000	\$50	\$50	.....	\$10,115.41	31-12-96	£31.25	9-8-97	\$2.75	4.23	\$65.00	47.45
Land.												
Sh. Land Investment Co., Ltd.	26,000	\$50	\$50	\$70,000.00	\$1,108.92	31-12-96	£41%	19-7-97	\$4.17	4.63	.....	90.00
H'kong Land Invest. & A. Co. Ltd.	50,000	\$100	\$50	\$1,250,000	\$56,559.49	31-12-96	£4%	22-1-97	\$4.00	5.16	\$77.50	56.57
Kowloon Land & Building Co. Ltd.	5,960	\$50	\$30	.....	\$266.12	31-12-96	£80.80	9-2-97	\$0.77	4.05	\$19.10	13.87
Humphreys Estate & F. Co. Ltd.	25,400	\$10	\$10	\$25,000.00	\$519.29	31-12-96	£80.70	23-2-97	\$0.70	7.18	9.75	7.12
Industrial.												
Shanghai Gas Co.	3,000	\$100	\$100	\$100,000	\$13,854.19	31-12-96	£16.00	15-7-97	\$14.66	6.51	.....	225.00
Major Brothers, Ltd.	5,500	\$50	\$50	.....	\$2,474.07	31-12-96	£1.50	9-12-94	.....	.....	.....	42.50
Ewo Cotton Sp. & W. Co., Ltd.	10,000	\$100	\$100	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	115.00
International Cotton Man. Co. Ltd.	7,620	\$100	\$100	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	121.00
Leong-kung-mow Cotton Spinning and Weaving Co., Ltd.	8,000	\$100	\$100	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	115.00
Soy Chee Cotton Spin. Co. Ltd.	2,000	\$500	\$500	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	575.00
Yah Leong Cotton Spin. Co., Ltd.	7,500	\$100	\$40	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	42.00
Shanghai Ice Co.	540	\$100	\$100	\$6,800.00	.....	31-10-96	£19	12-1-97	\$11.00	8.46	.....	130.00
Shanghai Rice Mill Co. Ltd.	2,000	\$25	\$25	.....	\$775.52	31-12-96	£6%	24-2-97	.....	.....	.....	27.50
China Flour Mill Co., Ltd.	3,000	\$50	\$50	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	55.00
American Cigarette Co., Ltd.	1,500	\$50	\$50	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	85.00
Tugs and Cargo Boats.												
Shanghai Tug Boat Co., Ltd.	1,000	\$100	\$100	\$53,000.00	\$818.50	31-12-95	£15	15-6-97	\$18.67	8.68	.....	215.00
Yaku Tug and Lighter Co., Ltd.	8,600	\$750	\$750	\$7,120,000.00 £36,631.10	\$7,935.65	31-12-96	£7%	27-2-96	\$7.67	6.61	\$116.00	.....
Shanghai Cargo Boat Co. Ltd.	2,300	\$100	\$100	\$115,425.39	\$1,403.22	31-12-96	£8%	2-3-97	\$16.00	8.16	.....	196.00
Co-operative Cargo Boat Co., Ltd.	1,000	\$100	\$100	\$51,152.84	\$1,567.87	31-12-96	£9%	3-3-97	\$14.33	7.96	.....	180.00
Miscellaneous.												
Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ltd.	7,200	\$20	\$20	\$20,000.00	\$8,362.17	31-12-96	£15.63	26-7-97	\$12.58	4.12	.....	305.00
Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco Co.	13,000	\$20	\$20	\$5,485.11	\$80,530.33	31-12-95	£14.47	31-3-97	\$8.43	8.43	.....	100.00
Shanghai-Langkai Tobacco Co., Ltd.	3,980	\$100	\$100	.....	\$186,229.23	31-12-95	None	.....	.....	.....	.....	400.00
Shanghai Horse Bazaar Co., Ltd.	1,800	\$50	\$50	\$9,586.26	\$9,751.23	31-12-96	£4	24-4-96	\$4.00	5.26	.....	76.00
J. Llewellyn & Co., Ltd.	1,200	\$100	\$100	.....	\$366.29	31-12-96	£7%	25-5-93	.....	.....	.....	51.10
Hall & Holtz, Ltd.	6,250	\$20	\$20	\$125,000	\$4,496.49	8-2-97	£2	15-4-97	\$3.00	7.23	\$41.50	30.29
A. S. Watson & Co., Ltd.	60,000	\$10	\$10	\$125,000	\$12,159.15	31-12-96	£5%	22-5-97	\$0.97	7.76	\$12.50	9.12
Bell's Asbestos Eastern Agency, Ltd.	8,200	£1	£1	.....	£47.03	31-12-95	None	.....	.....	.....	\$9.00	6.57
Hongkong Electric Co., Ltd.	30,000	\$10	\$8	none	\$8,119.23	30-4-96	£5%	29-6-95	\$0.27	3.37	\$8.00	5.84
Central Stores, Ltd.	6,000	\$20	\$15	.....	\$7,889.84	28-2-97	None	.....	.....	.....	\$15.00	10.95

* For half year. † For year. ‡ Interim dividend. § Final dividend for business year. \$ A deficit. (a) Exclusive of accrued interest. (c) Insurance Fund. (d) Depreciation Fund. (e) Reserve against Exchange and Investment Fluctuations. (f) Bonus. (g) Assuming that they run for the full term. (h) On the 31st December last, there were only £1.10.0 per share paid up, this, with the further calls of £1.10.0 per share since paid, cover the deficit. For all Dollar shares the exchange is fixed at 73.

J. P. BISSET & Co.